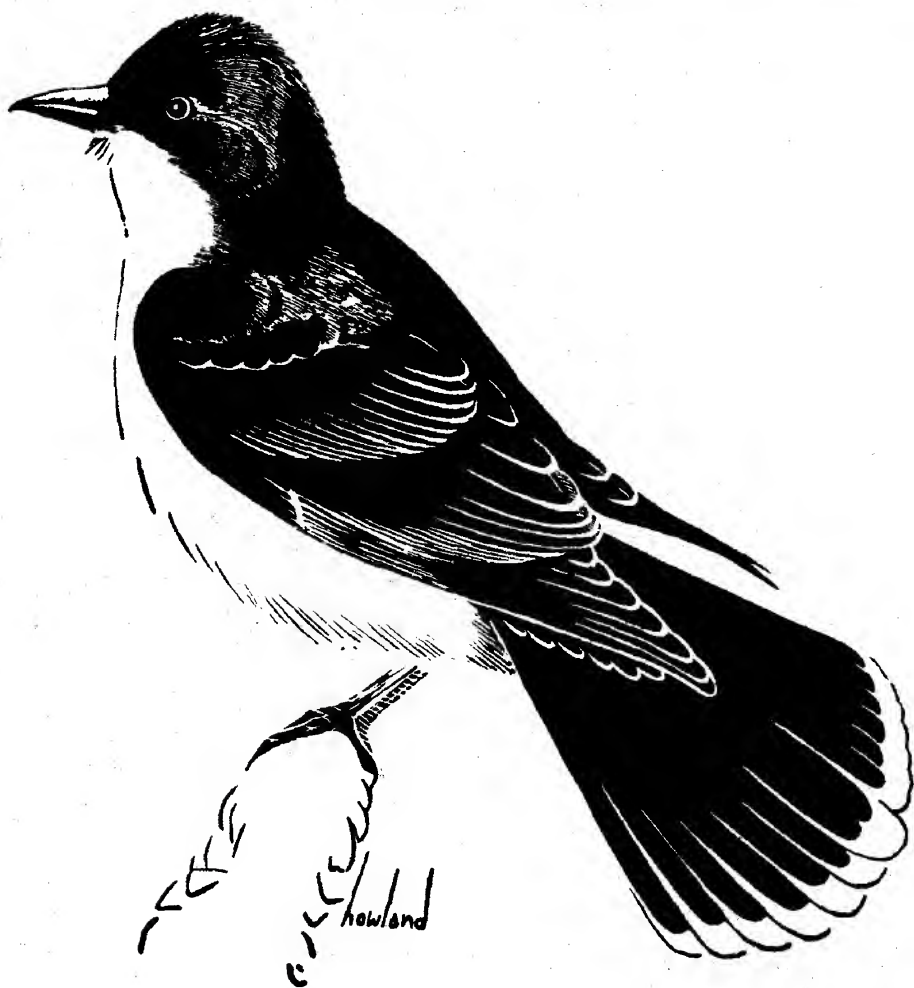


The **KINGBIRD**



VOL. 44, NO. 4

DECEMBER • 1994

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

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The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC

Vol. 44 No. 4

December 1994

253-344

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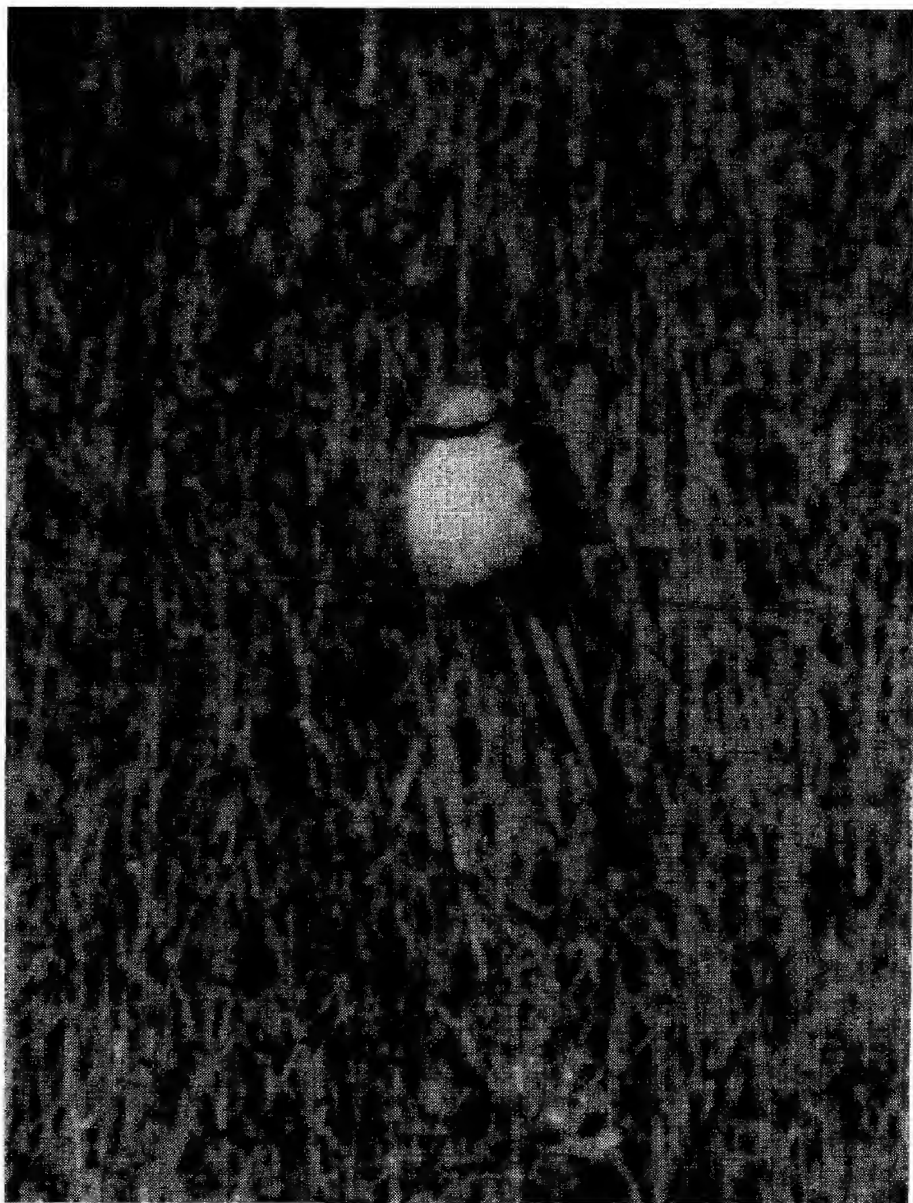


Figure 1. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher along Nine Mile Point Road, Town of New Haven, Oswego County, New York, 28 May 1994. Photograph by M. A. Koeneke.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES 61: SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER

MARY ALICE KOENEKE

On 28 May 1994, at approximately 6:30 PM, I had just arrived home when Mary Dreiling, a fellow birder from the Onondaga Audubon Society, knocked at the door and said: "I assume you've seen the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher down the road." Suffice it to say the old adage of "never assume..." came immediately to mind and the ensuing conversation (where, when, etc.) led me quickly to my binoculars and Mary's car. A scant 2 minutes later, we were 0.3 mile south of my house on Nine Mile Point Road, Town of New Haven, Oswego County, observing an adult Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*)! The bird was perched on the east side of the road on a barbed wire fence which runs parallel (north-south) to Nine Mile Point Road. I had previously seen Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Texas and had no difficulty confirming Mary's identification. This individual exhibited a full-length tail with darker tips, salmon-red underwings, dark upper wings contrasting with a pale gray back, and pale gray head with a black eye line. The salmon color was visible above the "shoulder" when the wings were folded, resembling an epaulet. The bird occasionally flew up to flycatch insects, landing along the fence line, on guy wires supporting a telephone pole, or on a small dead branch in the pasture. We watched the bird for approximately 10 minutes before leaving to call the Syracuse Rare Bird Alert and grab a camera. Returning to the site, the bird was still in the same area feeding as before. The bird did not appear disturbed by the activity of the ensuing photo session (Fig. 1) or the feeding of an Eastern Kingbird nearby. However, two Barn Swallows feeding and flying close by did seem to make the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher agitated. When the Barn Swallows approached in flight, the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher would flutter its wings and appear to be ready for immediate flight, then would settle down again when the swallows flew past. The bird remained for another 15 minutes or so, until it flew west across Nine Mile Point Road and disappeared from view at approximately 7:10 PM. Other birders looking for the bird that evening and the following morning went unrewarded. The bird was not seen again.

According to Bull (1974), Scissor-tailed Flycatcher ranges primarily from the south-central United States, breeding northeast into western

Table 1. New York State records of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

1939	11 June	Sag Harbor, L.I.
1940	23 Nov	Gilgo Beach, L.I.
1945	07 May	Rye, Westchester County
1947	12 Jun	East Hampton, L.I.
1952	18 May	Rochester
1956	04 Nov	Tomhannock Reservoir
1957	21 May	Riverdale, Bronx
1959	20 May	Prospect Park, Brooklyn
1960	30 Oct-07 Nov	Atlantic Beach, L.I.
1964	11 May	Short Beach, L.I.
1965	27 May	Quoque, L.I.
	11-16 Sep	W. Gilgo Beach; Tobay Sanctuary, L.I.
1969	16 Oct	Jones Beach, L.I.
1973	16 Jun	Manorville, L.I.
	24-25 Oct	Yaphank, L.I.
	28 Oct	Massapequa, L.I.
1978	22-27 Oct	Howard Beach, Queens
1979	18 Sep-03 Nov	Sandy Creek
1980	28 May	Tobay Sanctuary, L.I.
	30 Jun-04 Jul	Fort Tilden, Queens
	14 Jun	Manorville, L.I.
1982	02 Jul	J.F.K. Airport, Queens
1983	31 May	Gilgo Beach, L.I.
1984	02-05 May	Locust Valley, L.I.
	18 Sep	West Meadow Beach, Setauket, L.I.
1985	18 Jun	Washington, Dutchess County
	28 Jul	Mohawk River - Herkimer/Little Falls
1986	05-09 Oct	Fort Tilden, Queens
1988	04 June	Ellicott
1990	09 May	North Norwich, Chenango County
1991	19 Oct	Robert Moses State Park, L.I.
	16 Jul	North Manhattan
1992	21 May	Gilgo Beach, L.I.
	22 Oct	Robert Moses State Park, L.I.
1993	12 Jul	Eastport, L.I.
1994	28 May	New Haven, Oswego County

Missouri. They winter chiefly in Middle America, but small numbers are regular in southeastern Florida. They are recorded during migration in the east, north to southern Canada, especially in recent years. Examination of Regional reports in *The Kingbird* led to a compilation of 35 records for Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in New York State since the first in 1939 (Table 1). Twenty-eight of these records were from Region 10. Of the remainder, Regional records were geographically diverse, including Rochester, Sandy Creek, Herkimer/Little Falls, Chenango, Ellicott, Rensselaer, and Washington. The 28 May 1994 sighting in Oswego County was the second record for Region 5; the first record was from Sandy Creek in 1979.

The seasonality of records for Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in New York State was first compiled by Peter Post (1966) and is updated here. From *The Kingbird* Regional records, 13 sightings occurred from September-November and 23 sightings from May-July. The earliest record was 2 May; the latest 23 November. Also of interest is the fact that of the 23 sightings from May-July, only one bird was sighted on two consecutive days; all other sightings were of one day's duration. Conversely, in the fall, five observations lasted for more than one day including one record (Sandy Creek) in which the bird stayed for 46 days!

RD 1 Box 41, Oswego, New York 13126

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THE STATUS OF LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER IN WESTERN NEW YORK

DOMINIC E. SHERONY

By 1985, it had become apparent that Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) was a regular annual migrant in small numbers in western New York. Prior to 1980 the bird was rarely reported, except by a few observers. More thorough understanding of the plumage differences between Short-billed (*L. griseus*) and Long-billed Dowitchers have improved field separation. This paper summarizes dates and rates of occurrence and the nature of the fall migration through the western part of New York State.

METHODS

I have used my own records along with those published in *The Kingbird*, *The Goshawk* (Genesee Ornithological Society), *The Little Gull* (Rochester Birding Association), *The Wood Duck*, *Prothonotary* (Buffalo Ornithological Society), and *American Birds* to understand the status of Long-billed Dowitcher in western New York. I have gone through the reports, and to the best of my ability, eliminated multiple records of the same bird and corrected any errors in dates. Aside from these adjustments, I have accepted the reports as being accurate. All are from experienced birders. Wilds and Newlon (1983) give an excellent account of the species differences between Long-billed Dowitcher and Short-billed Dowitcher as well as a description and photographs of the races of Short-billed Dowitcher. Hyman, *et al.* (1986) and Chandler (1989) provide further descriptions and methods of separating the two species by both sight and by calls. In my own observations, I have used both of these methods.

RESULTS

Table 1 lists all western New York records covering the period of 1980-1993, except for a few records from Buffalo in the 1970s. It includes all data from *Kingbird* Regions 2 and 3 and the only record after 1978 from Region 1. The total range of dates is 14 July to 19 November (Fig. 2). This plot shows the frequency of records versus the date of first observation. Seventy-five percent of all observations occur between

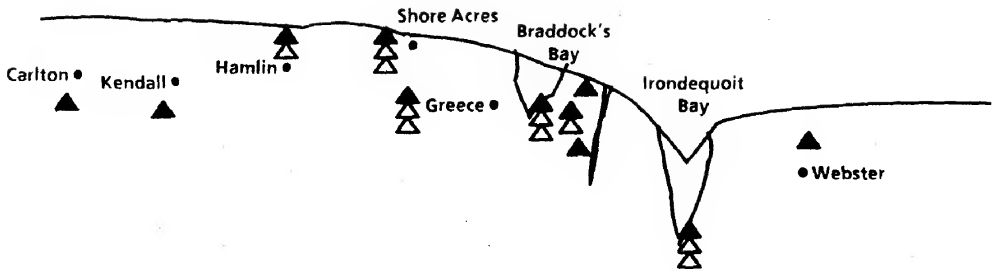


Figure 1. Location of Long-billed Dowitcher records in Region 2.

2 September to 20 October. The distribution of dates shows a strong peak in the week of 23 September. These records are summarized by Region below.

Region 1: The noteworthy records from the *Prothonotary* are summarized in a computer database (D'Anna, pers. comm.). Since 1970, there are a total of five fall records; two are almost certainly the same bird reported one week apart, thus leaving four records. Two of these are from Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, one from the Lake Erie shore in Buffalo (Times Beach), and one from Eden. One might expect more records from the Lake Ontario shoreline and from Iroquois NWR. However, there are good reasons for lack of reports. The Lake Ontario shoreline is not heavily birded in Region 1. The northern part of Niagara County has many orchards and few estuaries for shorebird habitat. There is little doubt that the Iroquois NWR, along with the Oak Orchard and Tonawanda Wildlife Management Areas, have had other occurrences of Long-billed Dowitcher, but they go unreported because the viewing conditions are seldom good for shorebird identification. Shorebirds usually are not seen close enough to separate dowitcher species based on plumage or calls.

Region 2: In Region 2, there have been 23 fall records of Long-billed Dowitcher between 1978 and 1993. Most of these are documented. There are several spring reports, which will not be discussed in this analysis. The fall records are reported in *The Little Gull*, *The Goshawk*, and in *The Kingbird*. Figure 1 plots of the location of observations in Region 2. Long-billed Dowitcher has been found all along Lake Ontario, usually within five miles of the shoreline. Except for the Savannah record, there are no inland fall records. The birds are found in mud flats created by

Table 1. Long-billed Dowitcher Records from Western New York.
 Juveniles birds are indicated by a "j" after the number of individuals.

Date	No.	Region	Location	Observer/Source
19 Aug 78	5	3	Montezuma NWR	GOS trip
24 Sep 78	6	3	Montezuma NWR	FNYSBC
18-23 Oct 80	1	2	Northup Creek	MD, RS
20 Oct 80	4	3	Montezuma NWR	<i>Kingbird</i>
14 Jul 81	1	2	Carlton	MD, RO, WL
26 Jul 81	1	2	Webster	WLloyd, MS
17 Oct 81	1	2	Genesee River	MD,WL
25 Aug-31 Oct 82	1-2	2	Northup Creek	KG, mob
4 Sep 82	1	2	Braddock Bay	FD
25 Sep 82	1	2	Hamlin Beach	MD, mob
25 Sep 82	1	2	Shore Acres	RS
26 Sep 82	1	2	N. Greece Rd.	MD
5 Sep 83	2	2	Kendell	MD, SH
1-2 Oct 83	1-2	2	Shore Acres	<i>Kingbird</i>
27 Sep 84	1	3	Corning Rd.	<i>Kingbird</i>
29 Sep 84	1	3	Montezuma NWR	CC, NB
16 Sep 84	3	3	Montezuma NWR	DS
19 Nov 84	1	2	Braddock Bay	CC/ <i>Kingbird</i>
31 Aug 85	1	3	Montezuma NWR	ST
21 Sep 85	1	3	Montezuma NWR	<i>Kingbird</i>
2-16 Oct 85	3	2	Shore Acres	WS/ <i>Kingbird</i>
2 Nov 85	3	3	Ithaca	<i>Kingbird</i>
28 Sep 86	1	3	Montezuma NWR	RS, SS
3-30 Sep 87	2	2	Irondequoit Bay	JS
20 Sep 87	1	3	Montezuma NWR	CC
27 Sep-8 Oct 87	1	1	Eden	<i>Kingbird</i>
8 Oct-8 Nov 87	9j	2	Salmon Creek	SC, mob
10 Oct 87	12j	2	Savannah	DT/ <i>Kingbird</i>
25 Sep 88	1	3	Montezuma NWR	DS
6-10 Oct 88	3	3	Montezuma NWR	JC, TG, CC

Table 1. Continued.

Date	No.	Region	Location	Observer/Source
20 Jul 89	1	2	Charlotte	CC
4 Sep 89	1	3	Montezuma NWR	MD
17 Oct 89	1	3	Montezuma NWR	CC
8 Nov 89	1	2	Hamlin Beach	WS, PM
14 Sep 90	1j	2	Irondequoit Bay	mob
23 Sep 90	6	3	Montezuma NWR	JS, MT
7 15 Sep 91	4	3	Montezuma NWR	DS, MR
5 Nov 91	1	2	Greece	KG/ <i>Kingbird</i>
25 Sep 92	1	3	Montezuma NWR	RM
10 Aug 93	1	3	Montezuma NWR	<i>Kingbird</i>
11 Sep 93	3	3	Montezuma NWR	DS, MT
7-10 Oct 93	1j	2	Irondequoit Bay	mob
4 Oct 93	6	3	Montezuma NWR	<i>Kingbird</i>
9 Oct 93	1	2	Greece	KT
14 Oct 93	1	2	Salmon Creek	KT
24-31 Oct 93	4j	3	Montezuma NWR	DS, MT

Observers: NB - N. Boudrie, CC - C. Cass, JC - J. Claffey, SC - S. Carlson, MD - M. Davids, FD - F. Dobson, KG - K. Griffith, TG - T. Griswold, SH - S. Hazen, WL - W. Listman, WL - W. Lloyd, RM - R. McKinney, PM - P. Martin, RO - R. O'Hara, MR - M. Reinhardt, DS - D. Sherony, JS - J. Skelley, RS - R. Spahn, SS - S. Spahn, MS - M. Sunderlin, WS - W. Symonds, MT - M. Tetlow, ST - S. Taylor; FNYSSBC - Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, GOS - Genesee Ornithological Society, mob - multiple observers.

the annual fall drop in Lake Ontario's water level, which exposes areas normally flooded in the spring. West of Rochester, Long-billed Dowitcher is found in ponds or marshes which are close to the lake. The lack of mud flats in years of high lake water levels, of course, leads to fewer observations. Long-billed Dowitcher usually is found with mixed shorebirds, including Killdeer, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin and both yellowlegs. In the Rochester area, they are almost never found with Short-billed Dowitcher. The dates of fall observations range from 14 July to 19 November. Records of late occurrences, after mid October, are often of lone birds. Two-thirds of the observations have been of single birds. Because dowitchers do not pass through this Region on a continuous basis, we can conclude something about the duration of their stay. Birds sometimes remain at a single location for up to one week and, in three instances, they have remained for an entire month. There have been few records that separate adult and juvenile birds; most records that make that separation are of juvenile. The maximum number reported was 12 juveniles in Savannah on 10 October 1987.

Region 3: I have been able to locate 22 fall records from Region 3 for the past 15 years. I have used my own records from Montezuma NWR, those from *The Kingbird*, *The Little Gull*, and *The Goshawk*. Single records from Ithaca and from Corning Road are the only reports away from Montezuma NWR. Montezuma NWR is particularly good for shorebirds in the fall because the water level in May's Point Pond is lowered annually to attract migrating water birds. Opportunities for observation are reasonably good. The refuge biologist conducts shorebirds counts in the fall, but does not separate dowitchers by species. There has been no coordinated effort to census Long-billed Dowitcher. Therefore, the number of occurrences might be higher than those reported. Benning (1980) reviews the occurrence of all shorebirds at Montezuma NWR. Over a period of 16 years (1964-1980), he noted Long-billed Dowitcher between 15 August and 15 November with few records before 7 September. Long-billed Dowitcher occurrences range from 15 August to 14 November. He observed them on 76 out of 596 days during the range of dates when the species was present. Thus, Long-billed Dowitcher was present on 13% of his visits between August and November. He must have seen this species annually, and he averaged 5 sightings per fall season. The maximum observed was 25 on 13-15 October 1967. In my own observations of Long-billed Dowitcher at Montezuma, I have noticed small groups of this species in company with larger groups of Short-billed Dowitcher in early September. These

small groups are composed of adult and juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher. By October, the Long-billed Dowitcher present are predominantly juveniles.

DISCUSSION

Comparison with Migration to the West of New York: Long-billed Dowitcher is a common fall migrant in eastern Ohio. Metzger Marsh Wildlife Management Area annually has concentrations in excess of 300 birds (reports in *American Birds* summarized in Table 2). The migration in western New York is considerably more sparse. Region 2 and Region 3 record between 1 and 5 occurrences annually. The number of occurrences is increasing, most probably because observers are more knowledgeable about separating Long-billed Dowitcher and Short-billed Dowitcher. Region 1 has an extremely low number of occurrences. Hamilton, Ontario, is almost directly north of Region 1. Figure 3 shows data of occurrences of Long-billed Dowitcher for the Hamilton study area, summarized by R. Curry (1993). There are 24 fall records for the period of 1980-1992, about the same incidence as seen in Regions 2 and 3. Records are distributed between 20 August and 3 November and the maximum count is 12 birds. Since the rate of occurrence of Long-billed Dowitcher in Hamilton is equal to that in Regions 2 and 3, we can assume that the density southbound migrants is essentially uniform across Western New York.

Comparison with Migration on the Atlantic Coast: On the Atlantic coast, Long-billed Dowitcher is a common fall migrant at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Table 2 and Figure 4 summarize the data of Davis (1982-84) and Morris (1985-90). They regularly visited Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge in the fall, recording the number of all shorebirds. Since these observations do not allow separation of arriving and departing birds, I have plotted the average peak numbers seen in each week over the period 1981-1989. These data show two peaks in migration, one in the weeks of 5 and 12 August and another in the week of 7 October. The range of migration dates is from the week of 15 July to the week of 18 November. The earliest record is 12 July 1982. The peak number of birds over this 9 year period is 34. The number of fall occurrences is difficult to estimate, but ranges from no less than 7 annually to as many as 20. Morris (1986) notes the mean first arrival date of adults as 21 July and the mean first arrival date of juveniles as 26 September. Comparison of the data for western New York in Figure 2 with that of Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge in Figure 4 suggests several points.

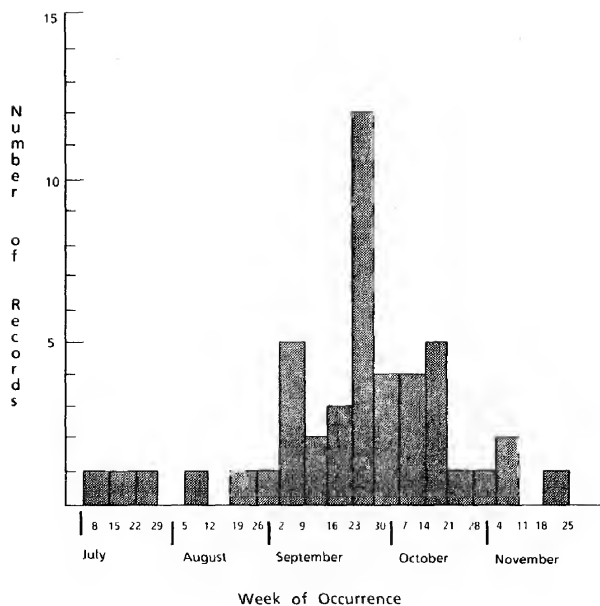


Figure 2. Dates of Long-billed Dowitcher records in western New York 1878-1993.

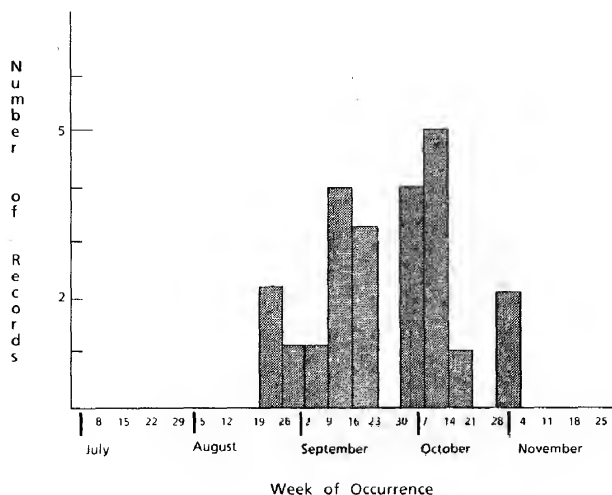


Figure 3. Dates of Long-billed Dowitcher records at Hamilton, Ontario, 1980-1992 (Curry 1993).

The movement of Long-billed Dowitcher at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge has two broad distributions in time: the first, with a peak in the distribution about 5-12 August and extending between 15 July and 9 September, represents primarily adult birds. The second distribution is primarily juveniles and ranges from 23 September to 25 November, with a peak in migration the week of 7 October. In contrast, the movement of Long-billed Dowitcher in western New York dates have one primary distribution, with a range of 9 September to 25 November. Like Jamaica Bay, these records are primarily of juvenile birds. Between July 8 and September 2, records in western New York are too few to show a peak, but adult birds are found in these groups. The first distribution seen at Jamaica Bay and discussed above is missing or weakly represented in the data for western New York. The interior migration is similar to the second distribution seen at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. It is likely that these records represent the fall migration of juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher through western New York.

SUMMARY

These data suggest that the migration of Long-billed Dowitcher in western New York is composed primarily of juveniles and that the adults moving east from their breeding ground generally seek a more coastal route. They represent a small fraction of the total southbound migration, which occurs farther west. To a first approximation, the interior migration in each of Region 1 (primarily data from Hamilton, Ontario), Region 2, and Region 3 run between 10 and 25% of the birds seen at Jamaica Bay, based upon the rate of occurrence.

In Region 2, birds are widely distributed on the Lake Ontario plain and are more concentrated at locations in Region 3 at Montezuma NWR. They are scarce in Region 1, but data from Hamilton, Ontario, indicate that the migration at that longitude is about the same as in Regions 2 and 3. It remains to be determined where birds migrating along the Atlantic reach the coast.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Bob Curry, William D'Anna, Dave Strong, Robert McKinney, and Nancy Miller for assisting in collecting these records.

51 Lambeth Loop, Fairport, New York 14450-9718

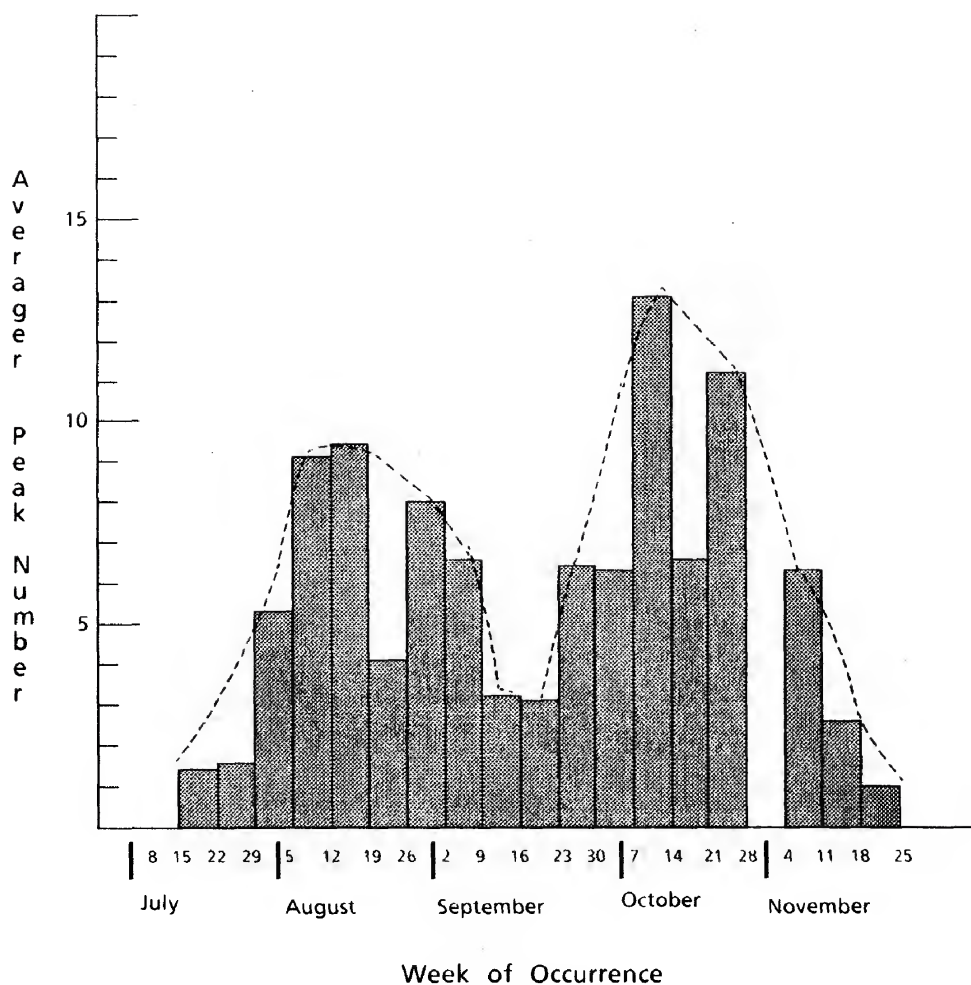


Figure 4. Dates of Long-billed Dowitcher records at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge 1982-1990.

Table 2. Comparison of Western New York with Adjacent Areas.

Area	Number of Records	Time Span per Year	Records	Range of Fall Dates
Region 1	4	1970-1993	0-1	
Region 2	23	1978-1993	1-5	7/14-11/19
Region 3	22	1978-1983	1-4	8/19-10/31
Montezuma NWR		1956-1980	5	8/15-11/15
Hamilton	24	1980-1992	0-5	8/26-11/3
Jamaica Bay		1982-1990	7-20	7/12-11/19

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ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GREAT BLUE HERON COLONY ON MOTOR ISLAND

WILLIAM W. WATSON

Historically there have been many Great Blue Heron colonies in the Niagara Frontier Region of New York State. Large colonies existed in Oak Orchard Swamp and on Grand Island, while in adjacent Canada large colonies existed near Chippawa and Wainfleet. Four small colonies existed "in the southern tier counties and a few elsewhere in our territory" (Beardslee and Mitchell 1965). Of the 81 Great Blue Heron colonies found in New York between 1964 and 1968, eight were found in the Niagara Frontier Region. Of 197 colonies found in New York State between 1972 and 1981, 18 were in Region 1 (McCrimmon 1982). *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* (1988) shows 16 noncontiguous areas of confirmed breeding.

In 1990 while conducting a study of the number of herons occupying Motor Island during the winter, the author had the good fortune to witness the creation of a Great Blue Heron colony (Fig. 1). While attempting to ascertain a departure date for wintering herons, heron nesting activity was observed. This nesting activity led to the establishment of a small, but productive colony that has produced new early and late nesting dates.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NESTING SITE

Motor Island (referred to by the owner as Pirates Island) is located in the east branch of the Niagara River due east of Beaver Island State Park, Grand Island, New York at 78° 55' 30" W longitude and 42° 53' 40" N latitude. It is a teardrop shaped island with a maximum length of slightly more than 1000 feet and a maximum width of nearly 400 feet. Observations were made with an 8 inch Celestron telescope from the boat launch at the west end of Sheridan Drive in the Township of Tonawanda at a distance of 2000 feet.

OBSERVATIONS

Fifteen counts during January produced a maximum of 34 Great Blue Herons on both 26 and 28 January, while four observations during February yielded a maximum of 28 herons on 6 February 1990. From 3 March 1990, until 23 August 1990, 34 observations were made on 29 different days. The following is a summary of these observations:

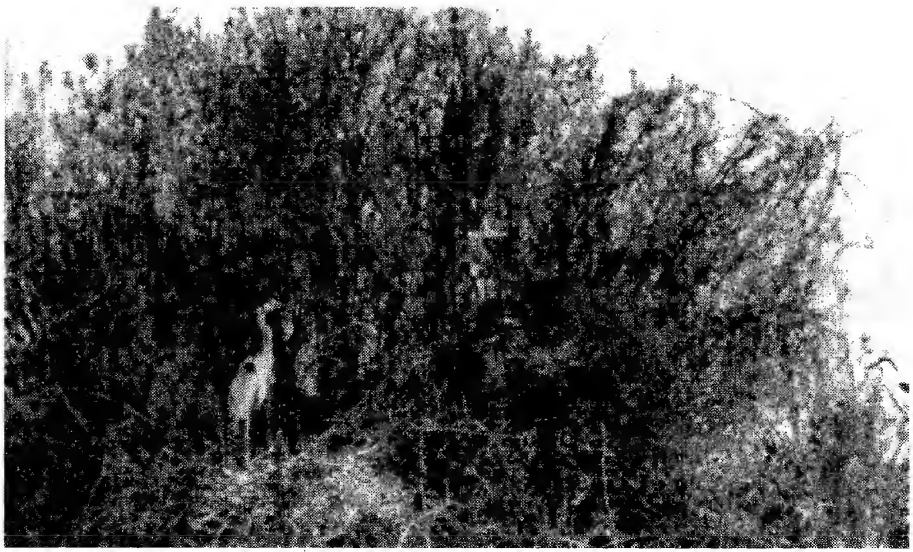


Figure 1. Motor Island heronry, Erie Co., New York, 22 May 1994. Photograph by Robert W. Brock.

- 24 March 1990. 12:20-12:40 PM. A Great Blue Heron was observed picking up and later dropping a stick. The bird then repeated the process with a second stick. Picking up a third stick (which after some deliberation apparently seemed just right) the heron flew to its mate. The heron's mate, standing on a primitive nest, took the stick, but then seemed just as perplexed as the first heron as to what to do with it. After carefully studying the nest for at least five minutes, this second heron carefully placed the stick in the appropriate location on the nest. Later the original heron came to the nest with another stick and the procedure was repeated.
- 28 March 1990. 3:25-3:35 PM. Five Great Blue Heron were viewed on Motor Island. Two were dutifully standing on two different nests. No incubation behavior was observed.
- 12 April 1990. A total of 13 Great Blue Heron was observed on Motor Island. Two of the nests contained herons in low incubating positions. The head of one of the birds was barely visible.
- 28 April 1990. 7:05-7:15 AM. Eleven Great Blue Heron and seven of their nests were studied on Motor Island. Herons demonstrated incubating behavior on two of the nests and feeding behavior on three other nests.

- 13 May 1990. 1:32-2:43 PM. After an hour study, it was determined that there were eight heron nests, 14 adult Great Blue Heron, and 10 or 11 nestlings. During this study, a drawing was made showing the location of each nest relative to surrounding trees, the maximum number of adults at each nest, and the number of immature herons in each nest. The nests were then numbered in order from oldest to youngest. Nest 1 (with the oldest appearing nestlings) had four nestlings. Nest number 2 had three or four nestlings, while nest number 3 had three nestlings. The nestlings in nest 2 appeared to be feathered and had dark caps and light throats. These small nestlings could best be counted only when they were erect, stretching their bodies and necks as they begged for food from an occasionally present adult. Although the temperature was 48°F, there was some rain, and the winds were from the northeast at 13 mph, none of the nestlings was incubated by an adult during the 71 minutes of observation time.
- 28 May 1990. 6:25-6:40 AM. One of the four young herons in nest 1 was observed two feet from the edge of the nest, but it later returned to the nest. The adult demonstrated wing flapping to the young, and the young responded by flapping their wings. The four young at nest 2 were all standing and appeared to have moved to a new nest located above the old nest. The three nestlings at nest 3 initially were resting, but at 6:40 all three were standing.
- 3 June 1990. 6:55-7:40 AM. Three of the four immature herons in nest 1 moved outside their original nest to an old nest. One of the nest 2 young birds was on a branch about 3 feet south of and one foot above its nest. Ten of the young herons were standing, while one in nest 2 was sitting. Another in nest 2 was flapping its wings. Two adults in higher nests were still incubating. A total of 11 adults and 11 young was observed.
- 14 June 1990. 3:50-4:05 PM. The adult Great Blue Heron at the southernmost nest demonstrated feeding activity between 3:56 and 3:58 PM and incubated in what seemed to be an abnormally high position.
- 15 June 1990. 10:44-11:41 AM. A total of 21 Great Blue Heron was observed. At 11:06 nest 2 was empty. There were no herons within a five foot radius of this nest. Nest 1 was empty, but an adult and four young were within a loose five foot radius of the nest. Nest 3 still contained three young herons. When an adult Great Blue Heron landed some five feet south of the nest, one of these young ran to meet it. The adult walked past the more assertive young bird and fed

the two that had remained on the nest. There are two possible explanations for this behavior. The first is that the assertive young heron was an interloper and not the offspring of the adult. The second is that the adult recognized the assertive young heron was more precocious than its siblings, and the adult was withholding food in an attempt to encourage this more precocious offspring to search for its own food. There was more evidence of precocial behavior. One young heron was observed with five adults in a grassy field 30 feet from the nearest nest. This bird was probably feeding and could certainly be considered a fledged immature Great Blue Heron. The earliest state record of a fledged Great Blue Heron is July 17. There was also evidence of younger herons. The newer nest first detected still had two immature birds. At 11:29 an adult incubating on the most southern nest of the colony stopped incubating and either rolled its eggs or fed very small nestlings until 11:33. Then it appeared to feed itself from material on the nest and at 11:36 continued incubating.

- 19 June 1990. 10:45-11:14 AM. The young herons continue to become more loosely associated with their nests. At 10:45 nest 1 was empty without any young Great Blue Heron in its vicinity. Nest 2 had one young on the nest, and then at 11:08 it had two young about five feet to the north of the nest. Only nest 3 (the nest with the most immature herons of the three original nests) had substantial activity around it. At 10:45 there were four young about five feet to the north of the nest, but by 10:50 this number had dwindled to two. At 11:00 two young herons were on the nest, and two young herons were five feet from the nest. However, when an adult heron landed at the nest at 11:06 all four young herons were in the nest! Did these young herons go to the nest expecting to be fed? On the basis of the behavior described under 15 June, the answer probably is yes.
- 24 June 1990. 9:30-9:54 AM. At the most southern nest of the colony (in which possible feeding activity had been observed on 15 June) one new nestling was finally observed.
- 30 June 1990. At 1:30 PM three Great Blue Heron nestlings could be seen in the southern nest. The three original nests each have one young heron, while nest 3 has three additional young within a five foot radius of it. At 10:30 AM four young herons had been observed in the nest above the original nests.
- 11 July 1990. 9:46-10:40 AM. The three original nests are all vacant, and it was assumed that these birds had fledged and all or at least most of them had left the colony. The remaining immature herons are in four

other nests or very close to these other nests. Based on the apparent age of the nestlings, the nests were designated nest 4, nest 5, nest 6, and nest 7. Nest 4 was largely obscured by foliage, but appeared to have two young in it and one young heron associated with it. Nest 5 was in a flowering tree, and contained four young. Nest 6 and nest 7 both contained three very young Great Blue Heron nestlings. A new map was again drawn showing the relative position of all the nests, as well as trees, bushes and other landmarks. Since nest 6 and nest 7 contained the youngest herons, they were studied most carefully. Although all the nestlings could stand and probably walk, initially all six young remained in their nests. At 10:08 a nestling on nest 7 stretched its wing. From 9:40 until 10:19 no adults were observed at the colony; however, at 10:20 an adult landed and fed young at nest 7. One nestling at nest 7 was observed swallowing what looked like a sizable orange carp. After the adult left at 10:24, the only significant activity of a young heron from these two nests observed during the 54 minute study period was that a nestling from nest 6 stepped about two feet from the nest.

- 20 July 1990. 7:10-7:25 AM. Nineteen young Great Blue Heron were seen. Six of these herons were feeding along the shore below the nests. Nest 7 and nest 6 still had three heron nestlings in each nest.
- 2 August 1990. 7:10-7:37 AM. Under clear skies and a temperature of 60°F, three young Great Blue Heron were observed in nest 7, and one young was seen in nest 6. Nest 7 remained occupied by at least one or two herons until the last day of observation, 23 August.

DISCUSSION

There are several factors that make the study of the Great Blue Heron colony on Motor Island unique. These factors are: (1) the fortunate opportunity to study the initial construction of a Great Blue Heron colony; (2) the extraordinary abundance of both early and late new nesting records; (3) the extremely high number of young herons produced by each nest; (4) that unlike the vast majority of heronries that establish nests near the tops of tall trees, the heronry at Motor Island contains nests in scrub trees and bushes which are only three to fourteen feet above the ground; and (5) this colony is presently the only Great Blue Heron colony in the Niagara Frontier Region that is mixed with Black-crowned Night-Heron.

Previously reported dates of eggs in nests range from 15 Apr to 9 June (Beardslee and Mitchell 1965; Andrle and Carroll 1988), so any

incubation of eggs before 15 April should be considered a new early record. Beardslee and Mitchell (1965) have young on nests from 19 May to 2 July, while Andrie and Carroll (1988) report the Great Blue Heron nestling period from 19 May to 17 July. On 13 May, eleven partially feathered young Great Blue Herons were standing on three different nests. Since the birds were not incubated during the 71 minute study period under conditions of 48°F temperature, some rain, and 13 mph northeast winds, these birds were old enough to have some temperature control. Although feeding behavior is sometimes difficult to distinguish from egg rolling behavior, the eggs probably had hatched before 28 April. Although the feeding behavior observed 28 April (21 days before the 19 May early nestling date) may be questionable, 11 nestlings were observed six days before the established record early nestling dates. The late date for unfledged Great Blue Heron juveniles is 17 July for New York State (Andrie and Carroll 1988) and the late date for nests with young is 2 July for the Niagara Frontier Region (Beardslee and Mitchell 1965). Since Great Blue Heron leaves the nest after 64-90 days, the latest nestlings extended both late dates by a considerable margin. Based on this study, the New York State early egg date should be changed from 15 April to 15 March, the early nestling date should be changed from 19 May to 13 May, the early fledgling date should be changed from 17 July to 15 June, and the late nestling date should be changed from 17 July to 2 August.

Of the seven Great Blue Heron nests studied, three nests contained four nestlings and four nests contained three nestlings with an average of 3.43 nestlings per nest. It is believed that all 24 young successfully fledged. This is an extremely high number of young produced per nest. Data collected by John Morse for the Seneca Pool Great Blue Heron colony at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge makes an interesting comparison. In the early years (from 1972 to 1975) of the Seneca Pool colony, when the number of active nests increased from 62 to 140, estimates of between 1.94 and 2.03 young were fledged per nest each year were obtained. The highest average of 3.15 fledged young per nest did not occur until 1988. In a Buffalo Ornithological Society study in the mid 1970's, only the Arkwright Great Blue Heron colony had fairly productive nests in 1978, when it produced an estimated 2.88 young per nest; however, in 1979 it produced only 1.62 young per nest (*vide* Frances Rew).

Why are the nests of Great Blue Herons on Motor Island nearly twice as productive as the nests of other heron colonies? Why are heron nests on Motor Island found only three feet above the ground, while most

other colonies' nests are found near the tops of tall trees? The answer is that the colony is on a small island that is completely absent of predators that would feed on eggs or young herons. Furthermore, the swift current of the surrounding Niagara River has discouraged Raccoons even at nearby Beaver Island State Park from swimming to Motor Island.

The first year of study produced both early and late new nesting records. Since young herons are able to walk easily among the tree branches, fledging dates (especially late ones) are difficult to determine. As early as 28 May, a young heron temporarily walked out of nest 1. As early as 15 June, an adult heron refused to give a young heron food. Also on 15 June a young heron observed with five adults in a grassy field about 30 feet from the nearest nest should be considered a fledging. Unfortunately no test flights of young herons were observed. By 11 July the original three nests were all vacant, and it was assumed these birds had fledged and left the colony. Of the 24 young herons produced, only 13 remained and these young were found on nests 4, 5, 6, and 7. These three events substantially precede the early state fledgling record of 17 July. Based on an incubation period of 25-29 days, young flying at 60 days and leaving the nest at 64-90 days (Andrle and Carroll 1988) and study data, an early egg date of 2 April, an early nestling date of 28 April, and a fledging date of 11 July seems conservative.

Late dates must be treated with more caution. The first possible feeding activity in nest 7 did not occur until 15 June and the first small young was seen on the nest on 24 June. Although this might suggest that the Regional and State late egg record of 9 June could be extended by 15 days or at least 6 days, the only negative observation with good light and of significant duration (56 minutes) was made on 9 June. Even on 9 June feeding behavior could have occurred outside the study period, and gone unnoticed. There is more convincing evidence that there were record late unfledged juveniles. Three nestlings were on nest 7 on 11, 20, and 24 July, and on 2 August. Not until later in the day on 2 August was a heron observed out of nest 7, about two feet to the north of the nest. On 6 and 8 August, and the last day of the study for the year, 23 August, at least one young Great Blue Heron was found in nest 7 on each day. Although the evidence may indicate an 23 August or later as the late date for unfledged juveniles, 2 August, only 49 days after the first possible feeding activity on 15 June and 40 days after the first observed nestling on 24 June, is a safe new late date for unfledged juveniles based on nest 7.

How can a colony of only seven study nests produce so many new

late and early nesting records for New York State? The late records for a newly established colony should be expected. Newly established colonies are probably founded by younger herons that do not have previously established nests and territories. These inexperienced birds must build a nest and go through the necessary courtship procedures necessary for building a nest and strengthening pair bonds. Certainly having the nest already built (except for a few repairs) territory already established (although this is probably of less importance for colonial nesters) and the pair bond already cemented would save a considerable amount of time.

Why were there three new early nesting records? The answer may be that unprecedented numbers of Great Blue Heron have been wintering on Motor Island since the January-February 1988 (Watson 1990). For the January-February periods between 1988 and 1993, the maximum counts of Great Blue Heron on Motor Island were between 26 and 46 herons each year. A reason birds risk the hardships of winter and possible death may be that survivors can be the first to nest on the best breeding territory in spring. Wintering individuals are not only the first on territory, but also the first to breed, lay eggs and fledge young. It is not surprising that since the colony's nests were already built, during the next (1991) breeding season a Great Blue Heron was observed low on its nest in incubating position on 15 March. Since that date was a more than a full month before the early egg record (Andrle and Carroll 1988) and the nest was only three feet above ground level, a canoe trip was made to the island. A solitary egg was found in the small depression in the center of the nest (Watson 1991). However, recent studies of Great Blue Heron colonies in Clarence Township and Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge suggest that incubation at these colonies, where herons do not spend the winter, may begin even earlier than at Motor Island.

Lastly, it is obvious that egg and nesting data for birds that do not nest in bird houses have been poorly documented, and there is a need for research of colonial and open-nesting birds.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank Frances Rew and Marian Dornhaffer for their many suggestions in reviewing this article, and Jim Lowe of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology for assisting with background information.

771 Fletcher Street, Tonawanda, New York 14150

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PREDICTIONS OF SPECIES TO BE ADDED TO THE NEW YORK STATE CHECKLIST

EMANUEL LEVINE

A decade ago, five active birders in the State were asked to forecast what ten species were most likely to be added to the New York State checklist, as well as what five species might be found to breed in the State for the first time (Able 1983). Now, roughly ten years later, I thought it would be interesting to examine those predictions, and then ask the same crew to repeat the process and give us their further prophesies. One of the original quintet was Tom Davis, who passed away several years ago. His spot is filled by his close friend, Tony Lauro.

HISTORICAL REVIEW OF NEW YORK STATE CHECKLIST

In his two volume monograph, E. H. Eaton (1914) acknowledged 411 species. However, John Bull (1974) applied both more rigorous standards for acceptance of records as well as subsequent taxonomic changes, and accepted only 366 species as of 1914. Since Bull's book is accepted today as the definitive work on the subject, we start with a baseline number of 366 species.

Between 1914 and 1974, an additional 44 species were added, bringing the total to 410. The 1976 supplement to the book added three more species, raising the total to 413. The New York State Checklist created by The Federation's New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) in 1989, and updated in 1991, contains a total of 438 species. Actually, 26 species were added between 1976 and 1989, because the NYSARC does not recognize Monk Parakeet as established in New York, whereas Bull did. This accounts for the discrepancy of one bird.

Since 1991, three more species have been added: Roseate Spoonbill, Spotted Redshank, and Slaty-backed Gull. That brings the official total to 441. Additional candidates are under review as of this writing.

HISTORICAL REVIEW OF BREEDING SPECIES

As to the breeding avifauna of New York State, Eaton (1914) recognized and Bull accepted 190 species as of 1914. Subsequent discoveries (Bull 1974) brought that total to 229, and three more species

Table 1. The 1981 predicted additions to the New York State Checklist of Birds (Able 1983).

P. A. Buckley T. H. Davis P. A. DeBenedictis R. O. Paxton K. P. Able

The predicted next ten additions to the New York State list

<i>Mew Gull</i>	<i>Mew Gull</i>	Groove-billed Ani	Rufous Hummingbird*	<i>Mew Gull</i>
<i>Sharp-tailed Sandpiper</i>	<i>Rufous-necked Stint</i>	<i>Sharp-tailed Sandpiper</i>	<i>Spotted Redshank</i>	<i>Rufous-necked Stint</i>
Western Wood-Pewee	<i>Sharp-tailed Sandpiper</i>	<i>Rufous-necked Stint</i>	<i>Mew Gull</i>	Rufous Hummingbird
<i>Spotted Redshank</i>	Black-browed Albatross	Black-tailed Godwit	Common Ground-Dove	Black-tailed Godwit
Great-tailed Grackle	Garganey	<i>Vermilion Flycatcher</i>	<i>Rufous-necked Stint</i>	<i>Spotted Redshank</i>
<i>Rufous-necked Stint</i>	Virginia's Warbler	Hammond's Flycatcher	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Ross's Gull</i>
Harcourt's Storm-Petrel**	<i>Little Stint</i>	Harcourt's Storm-Petrel	Hermit Warbler	Great-tailed Grackle
<i>Ross's Goose</i>	<i>Ross' Gull</i>	Band-tailed Pigeon	Black-chinned Sparrow	Common Ground-Dove
Lazuli Bunting	Black-throated Sparrow	Lazuli Bunting	Hammond's Flycatcher	<i>Rock Wren</i>
Ancient Murrelet	<i>Spotted Redshank</i>	<i>Reddish Egret</i>	Sprague's Pipit	Prairie Falcon

The predicted next five documented breeding species in descending order of likelihood.

White-faced Ibis	<i>Wilson's Phalarope</i>	<i>Boat-tailed Grackle</i>	Royal Tern
<i>Wilson's Phalarope</i>	<i>Blue Grosbeak</i>	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Blue Grosbeak</i>
Black Vulture	Royal Tern	Yellow Rail	Lesser Black-backed Gull
<i>Blue Grosbeak</i>	Manx Shearwater	Royal Tern	
<i>White-winged Crossbill</i>			
Brewer's Blackbird	Black Vulture	Manx Shearwater	Horned Grebe

*The NYSARC considered a *Selasphorus* hummingbird discovered by Geoffrey Carleton (*Kingbird* 31:3) to be indeterminate as to species; Rufous Hummingbird currently is under review based on several subsequent reports.

**The English name of Harcourt's Storm-Petrel was changed to Band-rumped Storm-Petrel in 1983.

Table 2. The 1992 predicted additions to the New York State Checklist of Birds, in descending order of likelihood (DeBenedictis lists in AOU Check-list order).

K. P. Able	P. A. Buckley	A. J. Lauro	R. O. Paxton	P. A. DeBenedictis
The predicted next ten additions to the New York State list				
Little Egret	Black-browed Albatross	Little Egret	Ancient Murrelet	Band-rumped
Storm-Petrel				
Garganey	Little Egret	Garganey	Black-tailed Godwit	Black-tailed Godwit
Black-tailed Godwit	Garganey	Pacific Golden-Plover*	Hammond's Flycatcher	Brown Noddy
Common Ground-Dove	Common Ringed Plover	Black-tailed Godwit	Virginia's Warbler	Common Ground-Dove
Great-tailed Grackle	European Golden-Plover**	Brown Noddy	Eurasian Kestrel	Groove-billed Ani
Mongolian Plover	Black-tailed Godwit	Common Ground-Dove	European Golden-Plover	Hammond's Flycatcher
Anna's Hummingbird	Long-toed Stint	Lewis' Woodpecker	Black-throated Sparrow	Virginia's Warbler
Ancient Murrelet	MacGillivray's Warbler	Carolina Chickadee	Hermit Warbler	Cassin's Sparrow
Groove-billed Ani	Shiny Cowbird	Shiny Cowbird	Shiny Cowbird	Black-throated Sparrow
Brown Noddy	Great-tailed Grackle	Common Ringed Plover	Lewis's Woodpecker	Shiny Cowbird

The predicted next five documented breeding species.

Black Vulture	Brown Pelican	Great Cormorant	Black Vulture	Black Vulture
Brewer's Blackbird	Sandhill Crane	Little Gull	Summer Tanager	Yellow Rail
Royal Tern	American Pipit	Black Vulture	Wilson's Phalarope	American Avocet
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Brewer's Blackbird	Carolina Chickadee	Royal Tern	Royal Tern
Fox Sparrow	Yellow-headed Blackbird	Pine Grosbeak	Brewer's Blackbird	Brewer's Blackbird

* *Pluvialis fulva*

***Pluvialis apricaria* (Greater Golden-Plover)

were added in the Supplement (Bull 1976), for a grand total of 232. The official New York State Checklist as revised in 1991, includes 239 nesting species, several additions the result of the breeding bird atlas field work, and also differs from Bull's total in not including Monk Parakeet. Since then the NYSARC has vetted nesting records of Merlin and White-winged Tern. Therefore, the grand total of breeding species is now 241, with others under consideration by the NYSARC.

PREDICTIONS

Table 1 lists the predictions that appeared in Able (1983). Those names which appear in italics were added to their respective New York State lists in the past decade. A total of 28 species was forecast to be added to the State checklist. Of these, 11 predictions were realized. Twelve species were anticipated as future breeding species and five subsequently were documented to nest within New York State. Thus, our seers scored roughly 40 percent in both categories.

It is also interesting to note that four species which were not on anybody's list were added, which really should not be a surprise. They were White-tailed (Black-shouldered) Kite, Azure Gallinule, White-winged Tern, and Cave Swallow.

Table 2 is the list of current predictions of both the next ten probable additions to the State Checklist and the next five probable new breeding species. With the exception of that from DeBenedictis, who refused to specify a sequence, all lists are in descending order of likelihood.

The Federation's official New York State Checklist as of 1991 is available either through the Crow's Nest Bookstore at the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology, from American Birding Association Sales, or from the author.

585 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, New York 11550

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NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 1994

WALTON B. SABIN

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., held its 1994 winter Waterfowl Count from 15 through 23 January, with 16 January as the target date. All Regions completed their counts within the established dates.

THE WEATHER

The frigid weather that took hold of the northeastern United States in late December tightened its icy grip through the entire month of January. The relentless cold weather resulted in temperatures that averaged 3° to more than 12° below the monthly normal across New York State. The state overall averaged 8.3° colder than normal, making this the second coldest January in 100 years of record (coldest was 1918). January 1993 averaged 13.5° warmer than this January.

The coldest air of the season settled southward from 15 through 21 Jan. Daily average temperatures ranged from 20° to 30° below normal. The smallest monthly departures were found in Region 10 (-4.6°), while the largest departures were recorded in the northern valleys. The St. Lawrence Valley averaged 12.4° below normal and the Champlain Valley was 11.6° colder than the long-term mean.

Precipitation was above normal for the month. The state measured 146% of the normal precipitation, for the wettest January in the last 15 years. Monthly departures were quite consistent throughout, ranging from 121% of normal in the southern parts of Regions 1 and 3 to 166% for the Hudson Valley. Several storms dumped significant amounts of snow during the month. Monthly accumulations ranged from 7 inches in New York City to over 90 inches at Oswego, which in both cases were more than twice the monthly normal. A few locations scattered around the state reported over three times the normal January snowfall.

One of the northern Region coordinators best expressed the results of their surveys as: "The cold and snowstorms did us dirt. No open water to speak of and snowstorms on many days of that week. Waterfowl moved out of here and south."

Table I. Regional totals for 1991 Waterfowl Count

Species \ Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Loon, Red-throated	1				1				5	12	19
Common			3						1	63	67
Grebe, Pied-billed	6		4						8	30	48
Horned	29		26		1			1	15	166	238
Red-necked	1		3								4
Cormorant, Great									31	173	204
Double-crested	2								1	83	86
Swan, Tundra	6									1	7
Mute		6						9	413	982	1,410
Goose, Snow									2	296	298
Brant		51							18	17,709	17,778
Canada	817	237	31,024	248	302			3	4,360	35,596	72,587
Wood Duck	4	1	2		1					7	15
Green-winged Teal					1					106	107
American Black Duck	201	513	2,383	113	230	4	95	331	726	12,360	16,956
Mallard	4,662	5,299	15,845	995	3,209	16	1,052	615	2,395	10,575	44,663
Mallard X Black Duck	1	5	1						2	13	22
N. Pintail	1	1	2		4				4	59	71
N. Shoveler										45	45
Gadwall	41		79						42	1,071	1,233
Wigeon, Eurasian										5	5
American	1		1						17	707	726

Canvasback	1,693	18	1,295		25				753	2,180	5,964
Redhead	278	152	10,757		101		3		21	64	11,376
Ring-necked Duck	5	6	53		1			1	259	315	640
Tufted Duck										2	2
Scaup, Greater	2,343	2,247	217		497		15		3,227	4,287	12,833
Lesser	12	621	14		10		15		16	1,486	2,174
species			2,127				81			8,266	10,474
Eider, Common										95	95
King										3	3
Harlequin Duck	1	1								9	11
Oldsquaw	281	1			1				26	1,055	1,364
Scoter, Black	1									2,157	2,158
Surf										7,549	7,549
White-winged	5	3			1					14,047	14,056
species										1,559	1,559
Goldeneye, Common	1,814	3,240	445	56	729		212	75	151	1,407	8,129
Barrow's							1				1
Bufflehead	918	198	309	2	157		9		371	5,388	7,352
Merganser, Hooded	23	5	60	9	8		1		78	543	727
Common	1,130	364	455	226	1,630		235	83	333	350	4,806
Red-breasted	119	278	8		55		8		63	3,515	4,046
Ruddy Duck									265	1,527	1,792
American Coot	75	34	376						222	272	979
unidentified		6					28		3	8	45
TOTAL	14,471	13,287	65,489	1,649	6,964	48	1,727	1,118	13,828	136,143	254,724

Table II. Comparison of 1994 with 1993 count for all species totaling over 1000 individuals in 1994.

Species	1993	1994	% change from 1989
Mute Swan	2,169	1,410	-35.0
Brant	26,377	17,778	-32.6
Canada Goose	81,152	72,587	-10.6
American Black Duck	23,216	16,956	-27.0
Mallard	40,077	44,663	11.4
Gadwall	1,566	1,233	-21.3
American Wigeon	1,569	726	-53.7
Canvasback	11,086	5,964	-46.2
Redhead	5,007	11,376	127.2
scaup (both species)	77,921	25,481	-67.3
Oldsquaw	4,480	1,364	-69.6
scoter (all species)	16,899	25,322	49.8
goldeneye (both species)	20,934	8,130	-61.2
Bufflehead	9,583	7,352	-23.3
Hooded Merganser	1,183	727	-38.5
Common Merganser	13,179	4,806	-63.5
Red-breasted Merganser	7,677	4,046	-47.3
Ruddy Duck	2,745	1,792	-34.7
Total	390,582	251,713	-35.6

Table III. Comparison of 1994 count with 1973-1993 average for all species totaling over 1000 individuals in 1994.

Species	1994	Average	% change
Brant	17,778	14,107	26.0
Canada Goose	72,587	56,221	29.1
American Black Duck	16,956	20,219	-16.1
Mallard	44,663	28,357	57.5
Canvasback	5,964	10,764	-44.6
Redhead	11,376	6,556	73.5
scaup (both species)	25,481	55,183	-53.8
Oldsquaw	1,364	4,167	-67.3
scoter (all species)	25,322	13,085	93.5
Common Goldeneye	8,130	12,076	-32.7
Bufflehead	7,352	5,464	34.6
Common Merganser	4,806	12,623	-61.9
Red-breasted Merganser	4,046	3,332	21.4
Total	245,824	242,154	1.5

**Table IV. New York State Department of Environmental
Conservation Aerial Count, 2 January - 7 February 1994, for all
species of 1,000 individuals or more.**

Species	Upstate	Long Island	Total
Mute Swan	286	1,157	1,443
Brant		12,919	12,919
Canada Goose	56,562	7,721	64,283
American Black Duck	4,777	11,383	16,160
Mallard	14,591	1,468	16,059
Canvasback	6,444	2,523	8,967
Redhead	10,197		10,197
scaup (both species)	5,862	59,326	65,188
Oldsquaw	9,621	576	10,197
scoter (all species)	120	11,720	11,840
goldeneye (both species)	2,960	1,251	4,211
Bufflehead	188	1,181	1,369
merganser (all species)	12,531	4,601	17,132
Total	124,139	115,829	239,968

**Table V. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
1993 and 1994 Aerial Counts compared, with percent change from 1993
for all species with 1,000 individuals or more in 1994.**

Species	1993	1994	% change
Mute Swan	1,634	1,443	-11.7
Brant	24,937	12,919	-48.2
Canada Goose	90,841	64,283	-29.2
American Black Duck	27,642	16,160	-41.5
Mallard	31,001	16,059	-48.2
Canvasback	12,509	8,967	-28.3
Redhead	2,400	10,197	324.9
scaup (both species)	45,392	65,191	43.6
Oldsquaw	2,154	10,197	373.4
scoter (all species)	4,805	11,840	146.4
goldeneye (both species)	3,783	4,211	11.3
merganser (all species)	25,327	17,132	-32.4
Total	272,425	238,599	-12.4

THE COUNT

The grand total of 254,724 (Table I) was down 28.9% from 1993, but only 1.9% above the 21-year (1973-1993) average of 250,020. All species showing gains last year reversed themselves with the exception of scoters which showed a gain of 49.8% over 1993, on top of a 1993 gain of 73.4% over 1992. Except for Mallard, Redhead and the scoters, all species listed in Table II showed declines. It is heartening to note a substantial increase in Redheads. The Department of Environmental Conservation aerial count echoed this as well. Was this a result of the vagaries of the weather, or some other factors? What will 1995 bring? With the exception of two or three species the downward trends for 1994 are quite substantial.

Comparing 1994 to 1993 count figures (Table II), the commoner species showed a 15-3 split heavily in favor of decreases. Both Mallard and Redhead reversed themselves, showing increases over 1993. Scoters, as a group, continued to increase. When comparing 1994 count figures with the 21-year (1973-1993) average (Table III), there is a 7-6 split in favor of increases. The overall total in Table III showed a 1.5% increase in 1994 over the 21-year average, down substantially from 1993 when the total was 42.2% above the long term average.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service midwinter waterfowl inventory showed all geese in the Atlantic Flyway (Maine to Florida) increased by 25.0% from 1993, including increases in Canada Goose of 20.8%, and Atlantic Brant of 56.2%. The dabbling ducks showed an increase of 20.2% from 1993, after a meager 0.5% increase recorded last year. All species were up, with the exception of Northern Shoveler which was down 17.3%. Diving ducks, including sea ducks, showed an overall increase of 20.9% compared to 1993. A few bright spots here were 45.9%, 10.0%, 19.6%, 148.7% and 256.1% increases over 1993 for Redhead, scaup, goldeneye, scoter, and Oldsquaw, respectively. American Coot also showed a 32.2% increase from 1993, but still showed a 9.8% decrease from the most recent ten-year average. Most American Coot again were wintering in the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida. In summary, waterfowl in the Atlantic Flyway were up 22.5% from 1993, and 18.8% above the 1984-1993 average.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation 1994 aerial survey was conducted from 2 Jan to 7 Feb 1994. The results are presented in Table IV. Table V compares the 1993 to 1994 aerial survey results. As in most years, the 1994 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation aerial count did not, in a general sense, resemble the Federation's ground count.

I wish to thank the upwards of one hundred observers who participated this year. A special thanks to the Regional Compilers who coordinated all those volunteers. A special thanks also to the new compiler for Region 9, Michael Usai. The Regional Compilers were:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Region 1. Joseph DiDomenico | Region 6. Lee Chamberlaine |
| 2. Thomas Smith | 7. John Peterson |
| 3. Eric Donohue | 8. Paul Grattan |
| 4. Leslie Bemont | 9. Michael Usai |
| 5. Marge Rusk | 10. Stephen Dempsey |

The 1995 Federation Waterfowl Count dates are from 14 through 22 Jan, with Sunday, 15 Jan, the target date.

652 Kenwood Avenue, Slingerlands, New York 12159-0044.

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS



Figure 1. Great Horned Owl on nest in Black Oak, Vault Hill, Van Cortlandt Park, 19 February 1994. Photograph by David S. Künstler.

Early dates for Great Horned Owl on nest: J. Bull (1985, *Birds of New York State including the 1976 Supplement*, Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, NY. 703 pp.) gave the earliest New York State egg date for Great Horned Owl as 28 January. Leonard Abramson and Chris Lyons found Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) and nest on Vault Hill, Van Cortlandt Park (VCP), 13 January 1994. I observed a bird incubating on 14 January and Abramson saw it as late as 20 February, but it was not on the nest 25 February (Abramson, pers. comm.), 28 February or 8 March. The nest is an old crow (*Corvus* sp.) nest about 45 feet (14 m) up in an approximately 60 foot (18 m) Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*) 20.3 inches (52.1 cm) diameter at breast height (Fig. 1).

On 1 January 1992, Carl Jaslowitz (pers. comm.), who made many of the following observations, found a Great Horned Owl on a squirrel nest 60 feet (18 m) from the ground and eight to ten feet (2.4-3.0 m) out on a limb in a Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) in the Northwest Forest, VCP, four weeks before Bull's early date. On 5 and 12 January, it was not on the nest, but the bird was on the nest on 13 January. A wind storm occurred on 16 January, and on 18 January, the nest was down due to fall of supporting limb; an eggshell fragment was found 24 January 1992 (Abramson, pers. comm.). Two owls were roosting nearby in Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) on 28 January and on 9 February incubating on a crow nest in Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) nearly adjacent to the 1994 nest (Abramson and Jaslowitz, pers. comm.). An owl was on the nest 23 February, and Abramson found an eggshell under vacant nest on 27 February.

David S. Künstler, City of New York Department of Parks & Recreation. Van Cortlandt & Pelham Bay Parks Administrator's Office, 1 Bronx River Parkway . Bronx, New York 10462

Mourning Dove with ice ball on bill: On 10 February 1994 late in the afternoon (1600 hrs) I observed a single Mourning Dove at one of my feeding tables and approached to see what was wrong with it. Other doves had been feeding earlier and perhaps this one had remained and was asleep, since I have had this experience before. I have even picked up several fully asleep Mourning Dove from the feeding platform and released them after they had awakened. This Mourning Dove was smaller than normal and an immature based on plumage. It would not let me approach too closely but I did observe and attempted to photograph it. It had a ball of almost clear ice on the lower portion and mostly inside its bill, which severely limited its feeding ability. I could not tell if the ice had formed on an abnormally long lower bill, which I have seen previously in this species. The ice ball was about 1/4 inch in diameter. The Mourning Dove flew off as I approached it and returned a short time later to try to feed again. Another attempt was made to photograph the bird as it tried to feed on cracked corn and white millet seed on the feeding table. How successful it was in this attempt I do not know since I could not get close enough before the bird flew off again.

The winter of 1994 had been very severe up to this date and the temperature that morning was -30°F officially at Watertown. Much colder temperatures were experienced at other locations around the Watertown area on that day. I would guess that the ball of ice was formed from the exhaled breath moisture of this bird. Perhaps it was formed from drinking water at nearby Stony Creek or a spring seep in my backyard. However the location of the ice ball on the upper portion of the lower bill mostly inside the mouth and its size makes me think it was from exhaled breath moisture. Perhaps a droplet froze on the bill while the bird was drinking and then the exhaled breath moisture added additional layers of ice to a nuclei. How commonly this ice ball formation on the bill of birds occurs in these extreme winter conditions is unknown but the risk of death by starvation could be fairly high for any bird in such a situation with an extended extreme cold spell. I checked other Mourning Dove on this and subsequent days. None showed any evidence of ice ball formation on the bill.

Lee B. Chamberlaine, P.O. Box 139, Henderson, New York 13650.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

The summer of 1994 was relatively uniform and dull over most of the State for both weather and birdwatchers. This was a season when the best records came from people studying newly accessible areas or checking specific breeding populations. Generally, it was considered to be a very good season for nesting birds.

This summer's temperature patterns were fairly uniform across the state. June started cool, had a very hot middle with a few to nearly fourteen days, with some record highs, above 90°F, and ended warm but more moderate. July temperatures averaged above normal everywhere, although it was noted as pleasant in the North Country. August was cool and wet across the State, a bit warmer in the western Regions, wetter to the southeast. Excepting only Region 3, precipitation in June generally ran slightly to a third below average. July was dry in the western part of the State, precipitation above average with lots of thunderstorms in the southcentral part, down slightly in the southeast, and about average in the north. The wet weather of August often occurred in cloudbursts, best illustrated by Region 10's report that NASS received more rainfall in a single 24 hour period than New York City recorded for the month.

The various assessments of impact of the weather on birds make interesting reading. Apparently Eastern Bluebird and Tree Swallow nesting was very successful in most areas, yet Regions 4 and 8 recorded Eastern Bluebird fledging reduced; the cold period from mid May to early June was blamed in Region 4, and Region 8 also noted some Tree Swallow nestlings baked by mid June's heat. The Region 1 report suggested that late June rains may have hurt ground nesters.

The heart of this season are breeding birds. The easiest way to catch most of the important news is via a walk through the checklist. Double-crested Cormorant experienced a complete nesting failure on Little Galloo Island in Region 6, apparently due to a crash in the Alewife population leaving insufficient food to raise the young. However, the nesting population was up on the Four Brothers Islands in Region 7 and nests were located for a first breeding record in Region 9. Bittern reports were up a bit, especially for Least Bittern. The Ironsides Island Great Blue Heron colony in Region 6 was down to 44 nests, a typical result for an aging colony. Great Egret numbers were good in Region 7 and one was observed in the Adirondack part of Region 5. Mute Swan continues

to spread and increase, with summer reports for Regions 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, and 10. Very high fledging counts were reported for both Wood Duck and Hooded Merganser at the Genesee Country Museum Preserve in Region 2. Blue-winged Teal remains of concern in most Regions, with Regions 3 and 5 noting the best counts. Northern Shoveler nesting was confirmed for a first time in Region 7.

Osprey, Bald Eagle, and Peregrine Falcon all showed substantial nest failure percentages; see the Region 7 report in particular. Yet Peregrine Falcon fledged young from a new, natural eyrie along the Hudson in Region 9 and also were hacked from two sites in Rochester in Region 2, with varying views on the prudence of this move. A few Northern Goshawk and Red-shouldered Hawk nestings were noted, with both still of concern as breeding species. The major nesting raptor positive was *Merlin* nesting recorded in at least three counties in Region 7, where they fledged a greater total of young than Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon combined! Mike Peterson's note that a rejected Breeding Bird Atlas period report may have been correct gives me an excuse to climb on a soapbox and caution that we should avoid close-minded proclamations relative to birding observations. One suspects that the rejection of the Atlas period report was partially due to the flat rejection of Merlin breeding reports in John Bull's *Birds of New York State*, where one rejection invoked "knowledge" that Merlin doesn't nest in cavities. Yet, the first Wisconsin nest, discovered in 1897 and published in an obscure book in 1902, was of a cavity nest. Certainly Merlin nesting has changed in New York and elsewhere in the Northeast in very recent years. They are too noisy while nesting to believe that they could have been overlooked if they were present in their current numbers. But surely, some of the records rejected in the past were correct.

Moving along to shorebirds, breeding notes are typically few, but the *Wilson's Phalarope* again was confirmed nesting in Region 7 and a first mainland New York nesting of *American Oystercatcher* in Region 9 are true highlights. Region 5 again noted the nearly complete destruction of the first complement of Common Tern eggs on Oneida Lake by Ruddy Turnstone; however, excellent fledging totals were reported from the second nesting attempt. Additional gull and tern notes include new Ring-billed Gull colonies in Regions 2 and 3 and a summary of a news report on the Great Gull Island colonies in the Region 10 report.

A Barn Owl nesting in Region 1 is a notable upstate, as was a nesting report for Long-eared Owl in Region 3. Both of our formerly common goatsuckers continue in trouble as breeding species over most of the state. Toward the edge of their range, Red-headed Woodpecker

observations dropped to zero in Region 4, yet increased in Region 6. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was found nesting in Region 9 well to the south and at lower elevations than previously known.

Among the nesting passerines, there was general concern for thrushes, warblers, and grassland species. The great diversity of nesting warbler species is noted in Region 3 and 9, and impressive counts came from a Nature Conservancy study in formerly closed pulp and paper lands appear in the Region 6 report. The many other notes relative to species, again mostly of concern, generally are too few for any given species to mark trends. Eastern Wood-Pewee was noted of concern in Region 6. Acadian Flycatcher numbers were up in Regions 3, 5, and 10. Concern was noted for both Bank and Barn Swallows in Regions 4 and 6. Common Raven sightings or nesting continues to increase in Regions 1, 3, 6, 8, and 9. As expected, Carolina Wren reports plummeted everywhere after last winter. A concerted effort to find grassland and wet meadow breeders in Region 6 brought impressive totals of Sedge Wren. Among the warblers we have the story with the "winged warbler" complex continuing to evolve, finally with no Golden-winged reported from Regions 3 and 4, a Blue-winged north into Region 7, and Lawrence's type hybrids noted in Regions 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, and 10; *Yellow-throated Warbler* found again in Region 1 and also in Region 3; *Prairie Warbler* reports particularly widespread; *Palm Warbler* probably nesting in both Regions 6 and 7; Prothonotary Warbler found in Regions 1, 3, 5, and 10; Worm-eating Warbler noted in Regions 3, 9, and 10, but not in Region 4; Kentucky Warbler sighted in June in Regions 3, 6, and 9; and Yellow-breasted Chat noted only in the Region 3 and 9 reports, though certainly the species also must have been present in Regions 10. Indigo Bunting was again flagged as of concern in Regions 3, 4, and 6. While the grassland sparrows remain of general concern, special efforts in several Regions produced impressive counts, including Grasshopper Sparrow in Regions 6 and 7, Henslow's Sparrow in Region 8, and Vesper Sparrow in Region 6. Bobolink numbers were reported down in Regions 5 and 6, but very high in neighboring Region 4. Orchard Oriole nesting was recorded in Regions 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, and 9. Finally, summering winter finches included Red Crossbill in Regions 1, 6, and 7; White-winged Crossbill in Region 7; Pine Siskin only in Regions 6 and 9; and Evening Grosbeak in eight Regions.

The tail of the spring migration provided a few more early June records than in recent years, generally of the expected late migrating flycatchers, thrushes and warblers. Very late records were noted for Tennessee Warbler in Region 6, Cape May Warbler in Region 4, Lincoln's

Sparrow in Region 2, and White-crowned Sparrow in Regions 2, 4, and 6. There also seemed to be a particularly high number of late spring reports of diving ducks on Lake Ontario, which extended into summer sightings for several species rare at that time and to early records for fall migration in August. A one man lake watch in Region 2 in early June produced impressive counts of White-winged Scoter and Red-breasted Merganser, but it remains to be determined whether this was truly unusual or simply represents the lack of observations during this time period. Elsewhere, Region 10 recorded a State record late for Common Eider.

At the opposite end of the season, the start of fall migration seemed slow, as it has for the past several years. Still, there were a number of passerines recorded at very early dates, including a Tennessee Warbler in Region 3 and an Orange-crowned Warbler in Region 5, for which it is assumed that very convincing details were provided to the Regional Editor. The eagerly awaited fall movement of shorebirds received mixed reviews, generally of low numbers. In most areas high water was noted as limiting shorebird habitat, yet some Regions reported good numbers to "the best in years" from the few spots available, while others noted only very low numbers. The Batavia Sewage Treatment Plant emerged as a new waterfowl hotspot in Region 1. Region 10 notes the impact on shorebirding of the completed beach improvement work at Cedar Beach. The best of the positives included a fallout of Upland Sandpiper and Buff-breasted Sandpiper on turf farms in Region 9, Willet in Region 5; Hudsonian Godwit in Regions 2, 3, and 10; Marbled Godwit in Regions 7, 9, and 10; Western Sandpiper in five Regions; Dunlin very early in Region 2; Wilson's Phalarope in Regions 3, 9, and 10; Red-necked Phalarope in Regions 1, 3, and 10; and Red Phalarope in Region 10; a few Olive-sided Flycatcher; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in seven Regions; very high Tree Swallow counts from Regions 3 and 6; banding notes from Regions 3, 7, and 8; note of nocturnal call monitoring showing peaks on 20, 22, and 28 August in Region 3; and the start of the sixth season for the Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch in Region 4.

As is often the case, the summer selection of rarities was small. Among the more interesting reports were Tufted Duck and Trumpeter Swan, both of unknown origin, American Avocet, and *Yellow-throated Warbler* in Region 1; *American Swallow-tailed Kite* in Region 2; Snowy Egret and *Yellow-throated Warbler* in Region 3; Cattle Egret, Willet, and Prothonotary Warbler in Region 5; Snowy Egret, Little Gull, Boreal Chickadee, *Palm Warbler*, Kentucky Warbler, and *Orchard Oriole* in Region 6; Cattle Egret, Marbled Godwit, *Wilson's Phalarope* nesting,

Blue-winged Warbler, and European Goldfinch (origin?) in Region 7; *Black Vulture*, *American Oystercatcher* nesting, and Marbled Godwit in Region 9; and Manx Shearwater, *Audubon's Shearwater*, Eurasian Wigeon, *Wood Stork*, *Rufous-necked Stint*, *Sooty Tern*, and Prothonotary Warbler in Region 10. Searching for the B.O.T.S., I finally skipped all of the rarities and settled on the "we're-a-for-real-New York-breeding-species" *Merlin* in Region 7.

716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580

Standard abbreviations: Regional rarities appear in *bold italics*; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. **In species accounts:** number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! — details seen by Regional Editor; ad — adult; Alt — Alternate plumage; Am. - American; arr — arrival or first of season; BBS — Breeding Bird Survey; CO — confirmed nesting; Com. - Common; E. - Eastern; FL — fledgling; FY — adult feeding young; I — Island; imm — immature; *intro* — see introduction to report; juv — juvenile; L — Lake; max — maximum; mob — multiple observers; N. - Northern; NWR — National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC — report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P — Park; Pd — Pond; ph — photographed; Pt — Point; Res — Reservoir; SP — State Park; spm — specimen; subad — subadult; T — Town of; Twn — township; W. - Western; WMA — Wildlife Management Area; y — young.

[illegible]

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties: the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia, NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19 from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County: the boundary is NY Route 31.

Winter Season: December, January, February

Spring Season: March, April, May

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

WILLIE D'ANNA

The first two weeks of the season were beautiful with sunny dry comfortable conditions. The weather switched in mid June with an oppressive heat wave. Five record high temperatures in six days brought the month's average to 4° above normal. Rain on eleven of the last twelve days of the month drenched fields and may have wreaked havoc on many ground-nesting species. The Southern Tier received the worst of this weather. One example was at Allegany SP, where thunderstorms damaged a beach and picnic area and also washed out a bridge, which limited visitor access for a few weeks. July was warm without extremes and on the dry side. The average temperature was 2° above normal while the precipitation was one inch below. The first southbound shorebirds were reported but no significant numbers were noted. August was another month without extremes. The average temperature was slightly below normal, precipitation was normal. The southbound passerine migration began with an early Olive-sided Flycatcher. However, there were few other highlights and only small groups of birds were reported.

There were a number of interesting probable breeding species found. At Allegany SP *Yellow-throated Warbler* and N. Parula continued at the Red House area while a Lawrence's type Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler returned for its second year. The Pine Warbler at Bush Hill State Forest CATT was last reported on 5 Jun. This species has never been confirmed as a breeder in the Region. Sedge Wren returned to the Buckhorn I SP ERIE site where it was first found last year. Four Red Crossbills in the Town of W Almond ALLE on 20 Jun may well have been breeding though this species wanders erratically. Orchard Oriole returned to a previous nesting site in the Town of Westfield CHAU, where two adults with two young on 3 Jul confirmed breeding. Lastly, the efforts of Chuck Rosenburg to assist Barn Owl in the Region bore fruit this summer. A pair were found using the nest box he put up in a silo in the Town of Royalton NIAG. It was touch and go for the three young in August when a Great Horned Owl was found roosting in the silo. The Great Horned Owl was just three ladder rungs below one young bird while the other juveniles were in the box. An attempt to capture the bird for transport to another area was unsuccessful but must have at least frightened it for a while, as the Barn Owls successfully fledged around 22 Aug.

Comments on the more regular breeding species were provided by few observers. Vivian Pitzrick in ALLE noted good numbers of Mourning Dove, Eastern Kingbird, Cedar Waxwing, and Field Sparrow. She reported that numbers were down for Purple Martin, House Wren, and Chipping Sparrow. Tim Baird in CATT found better than average numbers of Black-billed Cuckoo, Tufted Titmouse, Magnolia Warbler, and American Redstart. Yellow-billed Cuckoo was reported by several observers.

There were no reports of passerine migrants in June. Perhaps the most noteworthy event of the season was the exposure of the Batavia Sewage Lagoons GENE as a very good location for ducks and shorebirds. Walt Listman reported on several trips to these large ponds. On his list were 15 species of ducks, including such unusual summering birds as Green-winged Teal, American Black Duck, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Bufflehead, and Ruddy Duck. Apparently, none of these species bred in the vicinity. Northbound shorebirds on 2 Jun at the lagoons included Ruddy Turnstone, rare inland, two rare Western Sandpiper, and seven White-rumped Sandpiper. Thirteen Solitary Sandpipers there on 19 Jul were an unusually high number. On 29 Jul Listman recorded one Sanderling, rare inland, and a Baird's Sandpiper. A Red-necked Phalarope on 25 Aug brought the summer list to 17 shorebird species for the lagoons.

It was a season for exotics and released birds in the Region. Two of the records came from Sinking Ponds in East Aurora, where waterfowl are known to have been released but also where a number of legitimate rarities have been found. One, an eclipse male Tufted Duck (LH!) arrived on 16 Jul and stayed until 27 Jul. The Region still has no acceptable record of this species, and one occurring with diving ducks in fall or winter would be less suspect. A Trumpeter Swan (LH!, ph) at Sinking Ponds 21-29 Jun was unbanded and may possibly have been a wild bred bird from Ontario's program to reestablish that species. An adult Black Francolin with eight young (WW!) at Iroquois NWR was not on anyone's list of possible future breeding species in the region! This family, along with the N. Bobwhite, also at Iroquois NWR, were the result of releases by hunting-dog trainers at the refuge complex. The other exotics were a Collared Dove in Buffalo (CM!, ph) and a Budgerigar in the Town of Tonawanda (PH).

The only rarities not yet mentioned were *American Avocet* and Peregrine Falcon.

Contributors: Robert Andrie, Tim Baird, Elizabeth Brooks, Bruce Chilton, Willie D'Anna, Michael Davis, Steven Eaton, Barbara Henderson, Paul Hess, Linda Holmes, Walt Listman, Michael Morgante, Catherine Mueller, Frank Nicoletti, Raymond Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Michael Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Gerald Rising, Donald Roberson, Art Rosche, Olga Rosche, Mae Ruhl, Robert Sundell, Robert Wagner, William Watson, Peter Yoerg

Abbreviations: BSL - Batavia Sewage Lagoons, GENE; INWR - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; NF - Niagara Falls; NR - Niagara River; TWMA - Tonawanda WMA.

Summer reports: **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 643 Buckhorn I SP 23 Aug (WW); several nesting attempts at Buckhorn I SP, none successful. **Am. Bittern:** T Lancaster 26 Aug (MM), uncommon away from INWR complex. **Least Bittern:** road kill TWMA 12 Jul (WW), only report. **Great Egret:** max seven INWR 23 Jul; BSL 22 Jun and two 16 Aug (WL); Chautauqua L CHAU 21-24 Aug (RS). **Trumpeter Swan:** *intro.* **Green-winged Teal:** TWMA 12 Jun (WW); T Yates 12 Jun (RW); max 20 BSL 16 Aug (WL). **Am. Black Duck:** *intro.* **N. Shoveler:** T Ashford CATT 5 Jun (BC); arr BSL 16 Aug (WL). **Gadwall:** INWR and NF through season; *intro.* **Am. Wigeon:** several locations upper NR through season; ad with 7 y Beaver I SP 21 Jun (RA); arr BSL 16 Aug (WL). **Canvasback:** last BSL 2 Jun (WL), late. **Redhead:** BSL pair 2 Jun and one 22 Jun (WL), perhaps spreading from releases at Iroquois NWR. **Ring-necked Duck:** pair BSL 22 Jun and one 19 Jul (WL), rare in summer. **Tufted Duck:** *intro.* **Greater Scaup:** three BSL 2 Jun (WL), rare in summer. **Bufflehead:** BSL 19 Jul, 18 Aug, 25 Aug (WL), very rare in summer. **Hooded Merganser:** only broods INWR and BSL. **Com. Merganser:** two TWMA 12 Jun (WW), unusual location; Allegany SP 29 Jun (PH), a breeding area; up to six NF through season, nonbreeders. **Red-breasted Merganser:** NF 26 Jul (WW), uncommon in summer. **Ruddy Duck:** up to five BSL all season (WL), nonbreeders?

Osprey: T Ashford CATT 5 Jun (BC); several reports INWR where has not bred yet; Allegheny Res remains only Regional breeding site. **Bald Eagle:** two y fledged at INWR nest site; several reports of nonbreeders, mainly at INWR complex and Allegheny R. **Cooper's Hawk:** juv T Great Valley 31 Jul (TB), increasing as a breeder. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** BSL 18 Aug (WL), unusual location. **Peregrine Falcon:** imm Grand I 7 Aug (Hall!, ph). **Com. Moorhen:** several broods BSL 22 Jun (WL), only report away from INWR and Tiffy Nature Preserve. **Black-bellied Plover:** arr T Somerset 22 Aug (WD). **Semipalmated Plover:** arr TWMA 19 Jul (WW). **Am. Avocet:** Barcelona Harbor CHAU 2 Aug (RS!), second

consecutive year for CHAU, ninth Regional record. **Greater Yellowlegs:** arr T Newstead 19 Jul (WW). **Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr TWMA 17 Jul (MD). **Solitary Sandpiper:** arr T Machias 17 Jul (BC); *intro.* **Upland Sandpiper:** INWR 19 Jul (WW), only report, declining. **Ruddy Turnstone:** *intro.* **Sanderling:** *intro.* **W. Sandpiper:** *intro.* **Least Sandpiper:** arr INWR and BSL 19 Jul (WL); max 105 BSL 18 Aug (WL). **White-rumped Sandpiper:** BSL 25 Aug (WL); *intro.* **Baird's Sandpiper:** T Somerset 22 Aug (WD); *intro.* **Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr BSL 19 Jul (WL). **Red-necked Phalarope:** *intro.* **Caspian Tern:** three reports away from Great Lakes, increasing. **Com. Tern:** two BSL 19 Jul, one 16 Aug, unusual away from Great Lakes and NR. **Black Tern:** 38 NR 15 Aug (WD); BSL 16 Aug (WL); only reports away from INWR complex.

Barn Owl: *intro.* **Com. Nighthawk:** breeders reported from Buffalo only; arr T Tonawanda 12 Aug (PH). **Red-headed Woodpecker:** Pt Gratiot 3 Aug (WW), only breeding report; two Four Mile Creek SP 27 Aug (WD, BP), probably migrants.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Allegany SP 7 Aug (TB, SE), early; E Aurora 14, 15, 28 Aug (LH). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** singles banded T Alfred 14, 18, 31 Aug (EB). **Acadian Flycatcher:** five reports, doing well in Maple-Beech-Hemlock forests. **Bank Swallow:** max 300 TWMA 29 Jul (BC). **Com. Raven:** Bush Hill State Forest CATT 1, 27 Jul (BC), also present in May, may be a new nesting area. **Tufted Titmouse:** *intro.* **Carolina Wren:** only three reports. **Winter Wren:** T Somerset 1, 4, 11 Jun (GR, RA), unusual location. **Sedge Wren:** T Yates 12 Jun (RW); *intro.* **Marsh Wren:** ten Buckhorn I SP 18 Jun (GR), first recent reports from this location. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** T Amity 18 Jun (MP), new location. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 1 ad, 1 y Allegany SP 24 Jul (TB), only report away from INWR complex. **E. Bluebird:** 24 pairs fledged 162 y Amity L Bluebird Trail ALLE (VP). **Swainson's Thrush:** last T Tonawanda 1 Jun (PH); arr T Tonawanda 31 Aug (PH). **N. Mockingbird:** T Ward 18 Jun (EB), only report away from L Ontario plain.

Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: Brewster's type Tonawanda Indian Res 5 Jun (RA); Lawrence's type *intro.* **Tennessee Warbler:** arr Goat I 26 Aug (BP). **Nashville Warbler:** one breeding site ALLE and one WYOM; arr Fort Niagara SP 27 Aug (WD, BP). **N. Parula:** *intro.* **Yellow Warbler:** nest with eggs Amity Lake ALLE 7 Jul (VP), late. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr T Wheatfield and Goat I 26 Aug (BP). **Magnolia Warbler:** arr INWR 24 Aug (WW). **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** three breeding sites CATT and one ALLE; arr Golden Hill SP 22 Aug (BP). **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr Prendergast Pt CHAU (RS) and T

Alfred (EB) 31 Aug. **Blackburnian Warbler**: arr Fort Niagara SP 27 Aug (WD,BP). **Yellow-throated Warbler**: intro. **Pine Warbler**: intro. **Prairie Warbler**: ten sites ALLE and one site CATT; more than usual. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: arr Goat I 21 Aug (WD). **Blackpoll Warbler**: arr Oak Orchard WMA 24 Aug (WW). **Black-and-white Warbler**: two breeding sites CATT and one ALLE; INWR 5 Aug (WW), unusual location, could have bred; arr two T Newstead 24 Aug (WW). **Prothonotary Warbler**: two INWR 26 Jun (WW); five Oak Orchard WMA (MD), family group?; only reports. **N. Waterthrush**: Buckhorn I SP 18 Jun (GR), unusual location. **Wilson's Warbler**: arr Golden Hill SP 22 Aug (WD). **Canada Warbler**: arr T Newstead 24 Aug (WW).

Indigo Bunting: Buffalo 1 Jul (PY), unusual location. **Vesper Sparrow**: two reports ALLE, one report ERIE, one report NIAG, now a very uncommon breeder. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: five breeding sites ALLE, CHAU, and ERIE. **Henslow's Sparrow**: T Andover and Alfred Jun (EB); at least four T Clarence 7 Aug (PY, BH); hanging on at previous sites. **White-throated Sparrow**: five breeding sites ALLE and three CATT, doing well. **Orchard Oriole**: intro. **Red Crossbill**: intro.

2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls, New York 14304-4522

GENESEE — REGION 2

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

It was a warm summer. It was a dry summer. It should have been a good season for the breeding birds. June started with an average temperature of 67.8°F. This was 2.7° above average. Precipitation was at 2.43 inches, which was only 0.57 inches below normal. July was hot. The average temperature of 73.5°F was 3.3° above normal. July was dry. The 0.61 inches of precipitation was over 2 inches below normal. August was more normal with an average temperature 1.2° above normal at 69.2°F and precipitation at 4.27 inches, which was 0.87 inches above the long term average. All in all, not bad conditions was nesting. The dryness also was a factor in the early shorebird arrivals.

The summer season always is mixed because of the lingering spring migrants in June and early fall migrants in August. June saw a mix of reports from the lake. Of interest were loons and waterfowl. Common Loon was reported all month, with up to 15 individuals sighted on a single day. This seems high for the season. Unexplainable was the great

number of White-winged Scoter on Lake Ontario in early June. It remains to be determined whether this is a regular occurrence. The shorebird movement continued into June, with some good totals for individual species, and there were some interesting species, the best a very late Whimbrel. Little Gull is reported regularly according to the season, but three immatures at Hamlin Beach on 3 Jun were unexpected. The last push of passerines in June included the usual Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers. There was also a smattering of warbler reports, but as was the case for the spring migration, they were fairly limited. Late sparrows included Lincoln's Sparrow and White-crowned Sparrow, and Evening Grosbeak tarried to the month's end.

The lack of reports left an unclear picture of the nesting season. The summer provided birds with excellent conditions for nesting. Many of the more abundant nesters like American Robin and Mourning Dove managed to fledge their usual multiple broods. Ring-billed Gull once again nested in the Region. This year the site was on a small island in a drainage pond at Market Place Mall in Henrietta. Milt Adams of the Genesee Country Nature Center in Mumfords reported a pretty good nesting season for their waterfowl; 483 Wood Duck and 54 Hooded Merganser fledged from nesting boxes on the refuge. The Hooded Merganser total is very high for the Region. Peregrine Falcon was hatched at two locations in the Region. The young birds were seen regularly throughout the season, and were joined by an apparent adult bird late in the season. The three immature Bald Eagle that summered in the Braddock Bay area were a highlight for the season. Northern Saw-whet Owl nesting was once again suspected. Some other positives included Sedge Wren at Beatty Point in Greece. Successful nesting was not confirmed, but the birds were in present throughout the season. Good numbers of Blue-winged and Hooded Warblers were reported from Letchworth State Park. More notable there was the report of Nashville Warbler and good numbers of Prairie Warbler. The midsummer Whip-poor-will at Manitou was a real surprise, but once again they were nearly absent elsewhere. A new Henslow's Sparrow spot was located in Victor in June and observers saw up to four during July. We can only speculate why an Evening Grosbeak appeared at the end of July.

The downside of the nesting season seemed to outweigh the up side. Green Heron was noticeably down. The Blue-winged Teal seems to have almost been extirpated as a nesting species along the lakeshore. There were few, if any, sightings of this once common nester. Black Tern lost a number of nests early in the nesting season, possibly due to water and

weather conditions. The scarcity of Golden-winged Warbler was obvious; the decline of this species has been documented in a number of areas. Other species that were noted in decreased numbers included Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Vesper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, and Grasshopper Sparrow. Yellow-breasted Chat went unreported.

The beginning of the fall migration was slow through July. The highlight was an immature *American Swallow-tailed Kite* observed by Dave Tetlow at Braddock Bay on 3 Aug. The young bird was viewed for about five minutes as it worked along the lakeshore. The lack of habitat due to the dryness may have slowed the usual shorebirds. The best habitat was at Ontario Beach, Charlotte. Early arriving Hudsonian Godwit and Dunlin in July were real surprises. There was a trickle of warblers in July but nothing really noteworthy. Number picked up in August as should be the case. Migrant shorebird reports increased, most likely due to the increased observation time at Hamlin Beach SP. Parasitic Jaeger in August also was a good find for the Region. There were also some good waterfowl reports for August. Many observers commented on the scarcity of passerines during August. Flycatcher, thrush and warbler movements were generally light.

Contributors: Douglas Bassett, Sue Boettger, Carolyn Cass, Belma Cerosaletti, Tomma Lisa Clark, Anne Clarridge, Mike Davids. Jeff Dodge, R. Dows, Colleen Dox-Griffith, Roy Grau, Kevin Griffith, Lucretia Grosshans, Bill Gruenbaum, Harriet Hamilton, Herb Keating, Gary Klue, Jerry Liquori, Walt Listman. Bob Marcotte, Pat Martin, Robert McKinney, Richard O'Hara. Bill & Betty Powell, Ed Sailor, Pat Seager, Dominic Sherony, Robert, Susan & Cathy Spahn, Paul Spindler, William Symonds, Dave Tetlow. Don & Donna Traver.

Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay Park; BP - Badgerow Park, Greece; HB - Hamlin Beach State Park; LSP - Letchworth State Park.

Summer reports: **Com. Loon:** max 3-15 HB during Jun, one-two there in Jul. **Great Egret:** one Gates 2-4 Jun (GK), one Greece 27 Jul (KG), uncommon. **Wood Duck:** *intro* **N. Pintail:** one BB 6 Jun, unseasonal. **Greater Scaup:** one Greece 17 Jun, unusual; arr HB 6 Aug. **Lesser Scaup:** arr HB 27 Aug. **Surf Scoter:** six HB 1 Jun (WS), very unusual in Jun. **White-winged Scoter:** max 1030 HB 2 Jun (WS, mob), very high count; one HB 26 Jul, unusual, one HB 25 Aug, first fall. **Hooded Merganser:** *intro*. **Com. Goldeneye:** female Greece 16 Jun, unseasonal. **Bufflehead:** arr HB 28 Aug. **Com. Merganser:** arr Manitou 1 Aug. **Red-breasted Merganser:** last one HB 22 Jun, max 16 HB Jun.

Am. Swallow-tailed Kite: *intro*. **Bald Eagle:** *intro*. **Peregrine Falcon:**

intro; one Rochester 16 Jun, unusual; ad male Greece 22 Jul; one Greece 19 Aug. **Black-bellied Plover**: arr HB 11 Aug. **Am. Golden-Plover**: arr HB 25 Aug. **Semipalmated Plover**: arr Charlotte 15 Jul. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: arr Charlotte 12 Jul. **Whimbrel**: last HB 1 Jun (WS); arr Manitou 15 Jul (RM, RO'H). **Hudsonian Godwit**: two Charlotte 23 Jul (PS), very early. **Ruddy Turnstone**: arr Charlotte 23 Jul. **Red Knot**: ad, imm Charlotte 9 Aug. **Sanderling**: arr Charlotte 10 Jun. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: max 428 HB 1 Jun, high count. **W. Sandpiper**: last Hamlin 9 Jun; arr Charlotte 9 Aug. **Baird's Sandpiper**: arr Brighton 24 Jul. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: arr Charlotte 23 Jul; max 175 BB 9 Aug (DT), early for so many. **Dunlin**: last HB 1 Jun; one-two Charlotte 23 Jul (PS), very early. **Parasitic Jaeger**: four HB 27 Aug (WS). **Little Gull**: *intro*. **Ring-billed Gull**: *intro*. **Black Tern**: last two BB 26 Aug.

N. Saw-whet Owl: imm Rochester 28 Jul (ES, ph). **Whip-poor-will**: one Manitou 30 Jun (RO'H), nesting?

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last Manitou 8 Jun. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: last west lakeshore 9 Jun. **Sedge Wren**: one Greece 29 Jun, nesting behavior; one Greece 17 Jul; one Greece 8 Aug. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: last Manitou 6 Jun.

Blue-winged Warbler: max 37 LSP 5 Jun. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler**: Lawrence's type Mumford 8 Jun. **Nashville Warbler**: arr BP 10 Aug. **Prairie Warbler**: four Limmerick 4 Jun (AC'), interesting location. **Blackpoll Warbler**: last Greece 3 Jun; arr BP 28 Aug. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: max six LSP 5 Jun. **Hooded Warbler**: max 24 LSP 5 Jun.

Indigo Bunting: max 51 Kendall 5 Jun. **Henslow's Sparrow**: *intro*. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: last Manitou 6 Jun, late. **White-crowned Sparrow**: one Greece 27-28 Jun (CD-G, KG), very late. **Orchard Oriole**: one Kendall 4 Jun, uncommon nester. **Evening Grosbeak**: last six Manitou 6 Jun; one Naples 31 Jul (RS).

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, New York, 14612

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

STEVE KELLING

Weather in the Finger Lakes area from June through August could best be described as warm and wet. Although June started on the cool side, overall it was one of the warmest on record with the average temperature 3° above normal. Precipitation was 1-2 inches above normal. Unseasonably warm weather continued through July with temperatures 2 to 3° above normal, and precipitation slightly above average. August temperatures were slightly below average but precipitation was heavy, between 3 and 5 inches above the norm. There were also several significant weather events in mid to late August. Tropical storm Beryl came through the Region on 17 and 18 Aug, bringing heavy rains followed by strong cold fronts between 20 and 22 Aug and also on 28 Aug.

Nesting bird populations in general were stable or increasing. Common Raven is increasing and nested at several locations. Common and Fish Crow populations are stable, and Kevin McGowan reports they nested successfully in 50 to 60 percent of their attempts. Although the cold early June raised concern, David Winkler reports Tree Swallow had a good year for fledging young. Breeding Acadian Flycatcher was found in increasing numbers throughout the Region, and Henslow's Sparrow was located in the Finger Lakes National Forest. Sedge Wren nested at Queen Catherine Marsh. On the down side, evidence from Chemung Valley indicated that high precipitation kept creek water levels elevated and nesting success for Spotted Sandpiper was down. Thrush populations also generally seemed to be down in the Chemung Valley.

The Finger Lakes Region supports arguably the greatest diversity of breeding North American warblers in New York State. This diversity is due in part to its position at a longitude where two major drainage basins coincide. The southern section of the Region drains into the Susquehanna basin, while the Finger Lakes drain into the Great Lakes. This confluence may influence breeding ranges by providing natural migratory pathways for passerines to follow. The northern limit of many southern breeding warblers, and the southern limit of many northern breeding warblers overlap throughout the Finger Lakes Region. Consequently, many birders in the Region say that if you want to find southern specialties look on the south side of the hill, and for northern ones check the north side. During this summer season, 30 species of warblers were found in the Finger Lakes, and there is evidence that 24 species nested.

June and July were banner months for finding southern warblers in the Finger Lakes region. Worm-eating Warbler was found in several locations in the south-central portion. Prothonotary Warbler again nested at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, where they have bred since at least the late 1950s. In July, Yellow-breasted Chat was discovered near Elmira at Gleason Meadows. Two individuals were reported on 6 Jul and there was evidence that they also nested. Finally, a male Kentucky Warbler made a two week appearance in Montour Falls during late June. The most exciting of the southern warblers were two *Yellow-throated Warbler* discovered by Jack Brubaker in the Arnot Forest southwest of Ithaca. Finding two in the same location during the summer is especially noteworthy, although there was no evidence of nesting. Detailed field observations by many birders suggest that these were of the western race, *Dendroica dominica albilora*, instead of the eastern nominate race *D. d. dominica*, based on their white supercilium and relatively short bill. Other more common nesting warblers reported this summer included Cerulean, Prairie and Hooded Warblers. Unfortunately Golden-winged Warbler was not reported from the Region.

Of the more northern species, Mourning Warbler was found in good numbers. This may be due to increased logging, since there is evidence that Mourning Warbler prefer dense cherry and blackberry understory which appear a year or two after a woodlot has been logged (Charles Smith, pers. comm.). Nashville, Magnolia and Blackburnian Warblers bred in large forest tracts throughout the region.

Migrating shorebirds first appeared in mid July, when hundreds of peep were seen at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. But there was little suitable habitat for them at the refuge. Water levels on the Montezuma pools were high. They could not be lowered sooner to retard invasion of pools by Purple Loosestrife, which thrives on open mudflats and is hard to eradicate once established. After early August, however, the weed does not germinate on mudflats, which allows the refuge managers to begin lowering the water levels. When the water levels on Mays Point Pond and Tsache Pond were lowered, shorebird numbers skyrocketed. A total of 25 species of shorebirds was seen at or around the Refuge in August. Interestingly, Baird's Sandpiper numbers were twice that of White-rumped Sandpiper. American Golden-Plover arrived in numbers in late August. Red Knot, Sanderling, and Ruddy Turnstone were seen in low numbers. Lesser Yellowlegs was the most common shorebird. This shorebird mix suggests that the refuge is situated along a more central than a coastal shorebird migration route.

Other shorebirds of interest seen in the region were Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit and Red-necked Phalarope.

Local breeders of many passerine species began their dispersal in early July. Daily censuses at Kestrel Haven Migration Observatory (KHMO) by John and Sue Gregoire, and at Sapsucker Woods by Ken Rosenberg indicated the movement of Yellow Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Bobolink, Brown Thrasher and Tree Swallow in July. The first evidence of the passage of passerines that bred north of the Region came in late July, when a Tennessee Warbler was banded at KHMO. Interestingly, KHMO banded over 500 passerines, most of which were local breeders between 27 Jul and 3 Aug. Correspondence with Bill Evans, who is conducting a fall migration survey by recording the nocturnal flight calls, indicated that nocturnal flights of passerines begin in mid July, and peak flights of passerines occur in the final week of August and first week in September. This year large nocturnal flights were heard on 21 and 22 Aug, as well as 28 Aug, when strong northerly fronts passed through the area. A flight of Common Nighthawk over Elmira exceeded 300 individuals on 26 Aug.

A total of 195 species of birds was reported. In addition to the species already mentioned, the many interesting highlights include Horned Grebes, Snowy Egret, Laughing Gull, and Forster's Tern.

This was the last season in which Ned Brinkley lived in the Region and contributed his bird sightings. His expertise, enthusiasm, and drive were a source of motivation for many, especially me. Good luck Ned!

Contributors: Adam Byrne, Paul DeBenedictis, Bill Evans, Ned Brinkley, David Russel, Dick Clements, Jack Brubaker, John and Sue Gregoire, Fred Bartram, Carl David, Gladys Birdsall, Kevin McGowan, Ken Rosenberg, Tom Nix, Charles Smith, David Haskell, David Winkler, Cayuga Bird Club, Eaton Birding Society, Chemung Valley Bird Club, and the Schuyler County Bird Club. Also information for this report was gleaned from the computer internet via the Listserve Cayuga Birds.

Abbreviations: BCF - Boyer Creek Farm, Caroline; CH - Connecticut Hill; CV - Chemung Valley; FLNF - Finger Lakes National Forest; HH - Hog Hole, Robert Treman State Park, Ithaca; KHMO - Kestrel Haven Migration Observatory, Mecklenberg; MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; MPt - Myer's Point, Lansing; QCM - Queen Catherine Marsh, Montour Falls; SW - Sapsucker Woods, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

Summer reports: **Com. Loon:** imm Seneca L all season. **Pied-billed Grebe:** nested MNWR, CV; max 50 MNWR 5 Aug. **Horned Grebe:** max six Seneca L through 20 Jul. **Double-crested Cormorant:** six MNWR 4

Jul, increasing to 150 MNWR 28 Aug. **Am. Bittern**: QCM, MNWR entire period. **Least Bittern**: nested SCHU; one QCM 4 Aug; none MNWR!. **Great Blue Heron**: max 200 MNWR 12 Aug. **Great Egret**: three MNWR 22 Jul, increasing to 24 on 28 Aug; three Elmira 28 July. **Snowy Egret**: two Newtown Creek Horseheads 8 Jun. **Green Heron**: nested CV and QCM ; two MPt 1 Jul; two MNWR 12 Aug, numbers down? **Black-crowned Night-Heron**: one QCM 22 Jun; three ad, one imm CV 28 Jul; two ad, ten imm MNWR 12 Aug. **Mute Swan**: one Watkins Glen entire period, probable escape. **Wood Duck**: max 300 MNWR 12 Aug. **Green-winged Teal**: one QCM 3 Jul, max 100 MNWR 28 Aug. **Am. Black Duck**: max five MNWR 20 Aug, two SW 23 Aug. **Mallard**: max 500 MNWR 12 Aug, 150 HH 20 Aug. **N. Pintail**: two MNWR 26 Aug. **Blue-winged Teal**: one QCM 27 July, max 200 MNWR 28 Aug. **N. Shoveler**: five MNWR 19 Aug. **Gadwall**: six MNWR 20 Aug. **Am. Wigeon**: 15 MNWR 20 Aug. **Canvasback**: six MNWR entire period. **Hooded Merganser**: nested CV, singles HH, Watkins Glen, MNWR entire period. **Com. Merganser**: nested, five y, MPt CV; one HH 17 Jul. **Red-breasted Merganser**: two MPt 5 Jun.

Turkey Vulture: max 18 Seneca Meadows 18 Aug. **Osprey**: nested SCHU, first record in many years, Cayuga L, MNWR. **N. Harrier**: nested SCHU, small numbers around Cayuga L, none elsewhere. **Bald Eagle**: ten, two nesting pairs, MNWR entire period. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: nested KHMO, singles near Cayuga L CV entire period, none other areas. **Cooper's Hawk**: nested KHMO, singles through period, max five CV 30 Aug, early migration? **N. Goshawk**: nested SCHU; one W Danby 17 Jun, one BCF 19 Jun. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: nested SCHU; one Arnot Forest 18 Jun, one CH 24 Jul. **Broad-winged Hawk**: nested FLNE, one Arnot Forest 18 Jun, one MNWR 20 Aug, early migrant? **Red-tailed Hawk**: nested CV, Lansing; max five Arnot Forest 18 Jun. **Am. Kestrel**: nested CV, Caroline; max 18 near Cayuga L 20 Aug. **Merlin**: singles Kashong Pt 28 Aug, MNWR 29 Aug. **Ring-necked Pheasant**: nested KHMO, one Lansing entire period. **Wild Turkey**: increasing numbers except in north. **N. Bobwhite**: small numbers CV entire period, escapes? **Virginia Rail**: nested QCM, CV, MNWR. **Com. Moorhen**: nested QCM, CV, MNWR. **Am. Coot**: five MNWR 20 Aug. **Black-bellied Plover**: arr Ithaca Airport 28 Jul, max 15 ad MNWR 12 Aug. **Am. Golden-Plover**: nine Savannah Mucklands 29 Aug. **Semipalmated Plover**: 16 MNWR 5 Aug; three QCM 25 Aug; max 40 MNWR 28 Aug. **Killdeer**: max 76 MNWR 28 Aug. **Greater Yellowlegs**: one Elmira 27 Jul; max 48 MNWR 28 Aug. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: 25 MNWR 22 July, max 192 one 28 Aug, small numbers widespread in Aug. **Solitary Sandpiper**:

one QCM, three CH, six Harford 24 July. **Spotted Sandpiper**: max 10 MNWR 12 Aug, numbers down? **Upland Sandpiper**: nested Mecklenberg, possibly Penn Yann, numbers down in FLNF. **Whimbrel**: flyover MNWR July 3 (AB). **Hudsonian Godwit**: three ad MNWR 25 Aug (JG). **Ruddy Turnstone**: two MPt 28 Jul, one MNWR 28 Aug. **Red Knot**: one MNWR 28 Aug (CD). **Sanderling**: one MPt 18 July, three ad MPt 18 Aug, one MNWR 28 Aug. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: arr HH 17 July, seven MPt 18 Jul, max 100 MNWR 5 Aug. **W. Sandpiper**: one-three MNWR through Aug. **Least Sandpiper**: two MPt 19 Jul, max 70 MNWR 28 Aug, two Horseheads 30 Aug. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: juv MNWR 6 Aug, four MNWR 28 Aug. **Baird's Sandpiper**: max five MNWR 28 Aug, some present through Aug. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: max 70 MNWR 31 Aug, three Horseheads 28 Aug. **Stilt Sandpiper**: arr five MNWR 12 Aug, max 25 MNWR 28 Aug. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: arr MPt 10 July, max 21 MNWR 28 Aug; early individuals were ad, juv arr 19 Aug. **Long-billed Dowitcher**: three MNWR 19 Aug, four MNWR 23 Aug, one MNWR 31 Aug, all ad. **Com. Snipe**: two QCM 28 Jun, max eight MNWR 28 Aug; no reports of nesting. **Am. Woodcock**: nested BCF, KHMO, one Lansing 22 Jul. **Wilson's Phalarope**: three MNWR 25 Aug. **Red-necked Phalarope**: two-four MNWR 14- 23 Aug. **Bonaparte's Gull**: one-two MNWR through Aug. **Laughing Gull**: flyover Ithaca 3 Jul (NB). **Ring-billed Gull**: nested CV, attempted to nest Watkins Glen; 200 HH 17 Jul, early migrants; max 500 MNWR 6 Aug. **Herring Gull**: thirteen Ithaca through June, ten MNWR 6 Aug. **Great Black-backed Gull**: ad MPt 5 Jun, imm Seneca L, Cayuga L through period. **Caspian Tern**: 15 near Cayuga L 22 Jul, one Seneca L 5 Aug, max 29 MPt 15 Aug, ten MNWR 19 Aug, increasing. **Com. Tern**: one MNWR 22 Jul, two MNWR 20 Aug. **Forster's Tern**: two-three MNWR 14-26 Aug (KR, BE, TN, SK). **Black Tern**: juv MNWR through Aug, max ten on 20 Aug.

Black-billed Cuckoo: nested KHMO, only singles reported elsewhere. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: occasional SCHU, CV, one BCF 18 Jun, only reports. **E. Screech-Owl**: one Lansing 24 Aug, one Geneva 10 Jul, CV entire period. **Great Horned Owl**: one Cayuga Marsh 27 July, imm Aurora 5 Aug, entire period CV. **Barred Owl**: two BCF 17 Jul, one SW 27 Aug, entire period CV. **Long-eared Owl**: nested SCHU, two fledged, fifth nesting season at same location! **Com. Nighthawk**: five Elmira 8 Jul; 50 migrants CV 24 Aug, 300 on 26 Aug. **Chimney Swift**: max 50 Stewart P Ithaca 18 Aug. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: nested KHMO, BCF, CV; low numbers widespread. **Belted Kingfisher**: nested CV, one Caroline 4 Jul, two MNWR 12 Aug, only reports. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: several SCHU, Naples entire period; one Ringwood Preserve Dryden 5-13 Jun,

imm MNWR 28 Aug. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: nested BCF, Arnot Forest, FLNF, CH.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Lansing 20 Aug; singles SW 24-30 Aug. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: migrant SW 21 Aug. **Acadian Flycatcher**: nested CH, Arnot Forest, Shindagin Hollow, KHMO (third year); one Geneva 12 Jun. **Alder Flycatcher**: nested KHMO, CV; singles BCF 12-17 Jun, Montour Falls 18 Jun, MNWR 22 Jul. **E. Kingbird**: max 60 near Cayuga L 20 Aug. **Horned Lark**: five Canoga 14 Aug, four Armitage Road 20 Aug. **Purple Martin**: nested Sheldrake, CV, max ten MNWR 28 Aug. **Tree Swallow**: max 10,000+ (conservative estimate) MNWR 28 Aug. **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: nested Seneca L, CV, TOMP; max ten MNWR 19 Aug. **Bank Swallow**: max 500+ HH 18 Aug and MNWR 20 Aug. **Cliff Swallow**: nested Elmira, TOMP; max 50 Elmira 8 Jul, 12 Cayuga L 31 July. **Barn Swallow**: max 200 HH 18 Aug and MNWR 20 Aug. **Fish Crow**: nested in Ithaca. **Com. Raven**: nested Arnot Forest, FLNF; present CH Yellow Barn State Forest entire period. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: nested CV; present Shindaigin Hollow, SW entire period. **Brown Creeper**: singles Arnot Forest 26 Jun, Shindaigin Hollow 4 Jul, nested CV, scarce. **Carolina Wren**: nested CV, Geneva; singles QCM 19 Jun, HH 9 Jun, only reports. **Winter Wren**: nested KHMO, BCF; two Arnot Forest 12 Jun, one Montour Falls 18 Jun, one CH 30 Jun. **Sedge Wren**: nested QCM. **Marsh Wren**: nested QCM, MNWR, CV. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: two Ellis Hollow 24 July. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: nested CV; one QCM 19 June, three Stewart P Ithaca 5 Aug. **E. Bluebird**: max 32 CV 30 Aug. **Brown Thrasher**: nested in low numbers.

Yellow-throated Vireo: one QCM 18 Jun, on SW 23 Aug, regular CV entire period. **Warbling Vireo**: arr 6 Aug. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler**: Lawrence's type Montour Falls 4 Jul, Canandaigua 27 Jul, 1 SW 5 Aug; Brewster's type feeding a cowbird Ellis Hollow 19 Jul, SW 9 Aug. **Tennessee Warbler**: arr KHMO 28 July, one SW 9 Aug. **Nashville Warbler**: nested KHMO, Yellow Barn State Forest, CV. **Yellow Warbler**: apparent migrants arr early July, max 10 SW 9 Aug. **Yellow-throated Warbler**: intro. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: one SW 22 Aug. **Blackpoll Warbler**: one SW 30 Aug. **Cerulean Warbler**: one MNWR 2 Jul, nested Seneca and Clyde R edges, only reports. **Prothonotary Warbler**: nested MNWR. **Worm-eating Warbler**: male W Danby 31 May-31 July; one Montour Falls 29 Jun. **N. Waterthrush**: nested KHMO, one Ringwood Preserve 5 June, numerous SW, arr HH 18 Aug. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: nested TOMP, probable migrant HH 17 Jul. **Kentucky Warbler**: one Montour Falls 14-29 Jun. **Wilson's Warbler**: migrants SW, CH, Watkins Glen 28 Aug. **Yellow-breasted Chat**: two Gleason Meadows 6 Jul.

Indigo Bunting: nested in low numbers. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** nested KHMO, three Arnot Forest 18 Jun, on territory FLNF, one Canoga 24 July. **Henslow's Sparrow:** on territory FLNF. **Vesper Sparrow:** nested KHMO. **Swamp Sparrow:** nested MNWR, CV, max 20 MNWR 12 Aug. **Bobolink:** max 200+ MNWR 17 Aug. **Red-winged Blackbird:** max 5000+ MNWR 28 Aug. **Orchard Oriole:** one Sheldrake early June, nested Covert. **Evening Grosbeak:** one BCF 8 June.

732 Old 76 Road, Berkshire, New York 13736

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

MARY DOBINSKY

Total rainfall this summer was about half again the normal amount, especially in the Southern Tier. Yet weather for the season was generally pleasant. Summer storms followed a different pattern. High pressure systems from Canada and the West pushed the usual cold fronts through. As they did so, however, they picked up extra moisture from the Bermuda High that was anchored off the mid Atlantic coast. This caused storms with heavy downpours which lasted several hours and which produced minor to serious flooding. Typical was the 1.68 inches of rain that fell at Binghamton over a 24-hour period 13 and 14 Jun. Four other such storms followed, one the end of June, one in July and two mid August. Between the deluges, most days were at least partly sunny. It was a warmer summer than usual, especially from mid June to mid August. Some very cold nights the first days of June balanced a heat wave later in the month that included record 91°F readings at Oneonta 17 and 18 June. Mean temperatures at Cooperstown were 2.6°F above normal in both June and July while August was 2.2°F colder.

Certainly it was a lush, green season, providing excellent cover for nesting birds and abundant foods. Thanks to last winter's heavy snow cover, insects survived in record numbers and flourished throughout the season affording a valuable food source for developing young. Seeds, berries, fruits and nuts developed in abundance. On BROO field trips 17 and 27 Aug, Marie Petuh noted heavily fruited Black Cherry trees attracted large congregations of many bird species including waxwings, vireos, tanagers and orioles. High water levels persisted through much of the summer resulting in low nesting records for most resident ducks, no unusual duck species and poor conditions for

migrating shorebirds. Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch started its sixth season 22 Aug with good early results. Highlight of the breeding season for raptors was the confirmed nesting of Cooper's Hawk and Red-shouldered Hawk both in TIOG. A record 26 American Kestrel fledged in this seventh year of the CORT nest box program according to Bill Toner, director. Seven of the eight nesting attempts were successful. Tree Swallow also had a high success rate, with 140 young fledging. Of 38 nesting attempts, 30 were productive. One nest box contained eight eggs, "a record number since I started monitoring the boxes in 1981", reported Bill, "and all fledged." Eastern Bluebird, however, lost ground for the third consecutive year in their comeback efforts for population growth. Bill reported only 10 fledglings this year from six nesting attempts, compared to 12 attempts in most years before 1992. Failure of three of the six attempts was blamed on mid May's cold weather. Most other reports this season were not encouraging for bluebirds. Ruffed Grouse recovered from last year's poor season. Don Windsor considers "Veery, Hermit Thrush and Wood Thrush still plentiful in CHEN." Solitary Vireo and Yellow-throated Vireo were down. Elva Hawken, who moved from Region 5 to the town of Preston CHEN on 21 Jun was "very pleased" with the 70 species of breeding birds found within a mile of her new home, "particularly the number of warblers." What price hybridization! Four reports of Brewster's type Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler is an exciting summer record. The cost of such bounty, however, was the total absence of Golden-winged Warbler. In the previous 15 years, Region 4 had only four summers when even one hybrid was reported. In the same period of time, Golden-winged Warbler has declined from seven or eight in 1980-81 to three 1992-93.

Seven Breeding Bird Surveys were run, one less than in the previous three years. Comparisons of their figures over the last 14 years help judge population trends. August records for Gail Kirch's Vestal banding station indicate the fall migration push started 19 Aug. She netted several less common species and some higher than usual numbers for others, suggesting a good nesting season.

Seven Nashville Warbler 1-9 Jun is an exceptional total, perhaps including some migrants. Only the best Atlas years approached that number. Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeak showed continuing small declines. Grassland sparrows remained scarce. Bill Purcell, who birded in Truxton and Preble, CORT, 9 Jun, commented "I was encouraged by the lack of cowbirds even though I was in forested areas most of the time."

The only rarity reported was Horned Grebe although several

uncommon species such as Com. Moorhen, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and Acadian Flycatcher were reported. Missed were Black-crowned Night-Heron, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Red-headed Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Fish Crow, Northern Parula, Worm-eating Warbler, and Hooded Warbler. The total of 148 species is average, tying 1991 and 1992. Region 4 is sorely missing Jay Lehman who was transferred by his company from Norwich to Cincinnati. Jay was Region 4 Coordinator for the five-year N.Y. State Breeding Bird Atlas. After that tremendous service he served as Region 4 editor 1986-1989. Mostly we'll miss his field work and comments. A top birder, he tracked down several Regional firsts, both nesters and migrants. Our thanks and good wishes to him.

Abbreviations: BSF - Bowman State Forest, CHEN; CVSP - Chenango Valley State Park; FMHW - Franklin Mt. Hawk Watch; OPM - Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford.

Contributors: Cutler and Jeannette Baldwin, Les Bemont, Lois Bingley, Bruce Bozdos (Oxford BBS), Broome Naturalists Club, Mary Dobinsky, Elva Hawken (McDonough BBS), Jim Hoteling, Gail Kirch (Vestal bander), Margaret Layton, Harriet Marsi, Andy Mason (Oneonta BBS), George & Evelyn Mead, Robert Miller (Milford BBS), Ron Milliken, Susan Moran, Robert Pantle (Lisle BBS and Whitney Point BBS), Marie Petuh, Bill Purcell, Jack Salo, Joe Sedlacek, Julian Shepherd (Downsville BBS), Bill Toner, Chris Vredenburg, Weed Walkers of BNC, Nancy Weissflog, Don Windsor, Irene Wright.

Summer reports: **Com. Loon:** max three Otsego L to 15 Jun; singles Downsville BBS and Oneonta Res 2 Jul, good count. **Pied-billed Grebe:** only one Boland Pd BROO 29 Aug. **Horned Grebe:** McDonough BBS, rare. **Double-crested Cormorant:** only one Milford BBS. **Great Egret:** arr CVSP 31 Jul (JH); max four marsh Guilford CHEN 2-20 Aug (DW); two other singles. **Green Heron:** max six OPM 1 Aug (IW); five TIOG 10 Aug (WW); good numbers Jul, Aug. **Mute Swan:** OPM after 2 Jul. **Canada Goose:** 40 on 3 BBS; several pairs with y Jun. **Wood Duck:** max 24 Burlington Flats farm pd (OTSE) after 15 Jun included two hens 12 y; post-breeding max 40 BROO 29 Aug, generally scarce. **Am. Black Duck:** two CHEN 20 Aug; BROO 29 Aug, scarce. **Blue-winged Teal:** Boland Pd 29 Aug (JH), often missed recent years. **Hooded Merganser:** CHEN 6 Jun (EH) scarce. **Com. Merganser:** hen with nine y Oneonta 3 Jun; hen with 6 y Canasawada Creek CHEN 10 Jul; singles BROO 5 Jun and Downsville BBS, good count.

Turkey Vulture: max 22 OPM 6 Aug (CV); up to 12 same area often Jun. (IW). **Osprey:** Goodyear L. 19 Jun (IW), first Jun report since 1985;

arr CHEN 6 Aug; 11 FMHW Aug. **Bald Eagle**: Downsville BBS 8 Jun; FMHW 23 Aug; three others, good count. **N. Harrier**: male Burlington Flats through period; two others breeding season; nine FMHW after 12 Aug, scarce. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: one first banded 8 Jul 1992 (GK) recaptured Vestal banding station 7 Aug (HM). **Cooper's Hawk**: pair NY Windsor 20 Jun (JS); four sites Aug. **N. Goshawk**: Whitney Pt BBS 16 Jun; ad FMHW 22 Aug, imm 23 Aug (CV), local birds? **Red-shouldered Hawk**: ad feeding three y at nest in state forest near Owego 17 Jun (JB, LB), nestlings ph later (CB); singles two sites BROO Jun, one CHEN Jun and Aug, best count since 1987. **Broad-winged Hawk**: arr kettle of six Johnson City 19 Aug "tail end of a low pressure system" (MP); several Jun/Jul especially BROO. **Am. Kestrel**: intro. **Ring-necked Pheasant**: three BROO sites, one TIOG. **Wild Turkey**: three nesting reports; 16 on four BBS. **N. Bobwhite**: max three Johnson City 4-10 Jun (JH); OPM 11, 12 Aug max two, "same site as heard in spring" (MD). **Virginia Rail**: only one Boland Pd 4 Aug (MP). **Com. Moorhen**: one Boland Pd 29 Aug (JH), often missed. **Killdeer**: ad with two tiny y OPM 21 Jul; 29 on five BBS; smaller Aug flocks. **Greater Yellowlegs**: only one TIOG Aug (C&JB). **Solitary Sandpiper**: late migrant CHEN 6 Jun (EH); one TIOG Aug, scarce. **Upland Sandpiper**: only one Oxford BBS 6 Jun, "first record since HM and I have had the route" (BB). **Com. Snipe**: CHEN 6 Jun; OTSE 2 Aug, scarce. **Am. Woodcock**: four July reports max two, one Aug. **Ring-billed Gull**: max 17 CORT 19 Jun (BP).

Black-billed Cuckoo: 12 widespread reports, max three; last 27 Aug, good count. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: max four "flew out of one tree" W. Corners marsh, woods BROO 4 Jun (BNC); last OPM 2 Aug. **E. Screech-Owl**: only one Johnson City 24 and 26 Aug (JH). **Great Horned Owl**: three reports CHEN; one each BROO, TIOG; none Aug. **Barred Owl**: two Bliven Road CHEN 28, 29 Jun (EH); Pharsalia 30 Jul (DW); FMHW 12 Aug "3:30 p.m. heavily overcast" (RMi), good count. **Com. Nighthawk**: fledgling rescued 3 Aug by Barb Cole, Binghamton licensed wildlife rehabilitator, after it fell from a city roof in early flight attempt; two other breeding season reports; migration max 60+ Westover BROO 31 Aug (JH), scarce. **Chimney Swift**: max nine CHEN 9 Jun (EH); 22 on five BBS, counts continue low. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: several TIOG reports Aug. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: 11 on eight BBS. **Pileated Woodpecker**: max three on two of 16 widespread reports, high count.

E. Wood-Pewee: 30 on seven BBS, good counts through period. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: Crumhorn Mt OTSE 28 Aug (MD), often missed. **Acadian Flycatcher**: banded Vestal 10 Aug (GK), often missed. **Alder Flycatcher**: max 11 CORT 9 Jun (BP). **Willow Flycatcher**: 14 on five

BBS. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: 36 on six BBS, high. **Purple Martin**: only TIOG, scarce. **Tree Swallow**: *intro*. **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: seven widespread reports max six Boland Pd 4 Aug, scarce. **Bank Swallow**: colony BROO (MP) and TIOG (C&JB) smaller than previous years; three other reports, max 14 Oneonta BBS). **Cliff Swallow**: 34 Downsville BBS; four sites OTSE (six nests at one); one CHEN, two BROO, good. **Barn Swallow**: 74 on seven BBS; post breeding max 38 OPM 17 Aug, scarce. **Com. Raven**: Heiberg Forest CORT 9 Jun (BP), fourth summer since 1987, previously rare. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: max six CORT 9 Jun. **Carolina Wren**: only five reports, scarce. **Winter Wren**: 11 reports two new sites, good. **Marsh Wren**: four Boland Pd 4 Aug (MP), missed last summer. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: ad with juv Vestal Cemetery 13 Jul (WW); pair Afton yard 28-31 Aug (SM); two CHEN reports Jun; one Downsville BBS; one BROO Aug, highest since 1983. **E. Bluebird**: *intro*. **Veery**: 61 on seven BBS, lowest since 1987; eight banded Vestal Aug. **Swainson's Thrush**: "hatching year bird" banded Vestal 30 Jul; ad banded there 19 Aug (GK). **Hermit Thrush**: max seven Downsville BBS. **Wood Thrush**: max 28 McDonough BBS. **N. Mockingbird**: four-five reports month, max three; good count. **Brown Thrasher**: three on two BBS; BROO feeder through early July (JH), generally scarce. **Cedar Waxwing**: scarce Jun, July but "abundant FMHW late Aug" (CV).

Yellow-throated Vireo: five on three BBS, scarce Jul, none Aug. **Warbling Vireo**: 21 on six BBS; only three Aug, last Afton 21 Aug. **Red-eyed Vireo**: 191 on seven BBS; 26 banded Aug max six 26 Aug, high. **Blue-winged Warbler**: 15 reports Jun, max five Whitney Pt BBS; last 30 Aug, good. **Blue-winged Warbler X Golden-Winged Warbler**: *intro*. **Tennessee Warbler**: arr two OPM 28 Aug. **Nashville Warbler**: *intro*. **Yellow Warbler**: 150 on seven BBS, lower than recent years. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: 80 on seven BBS; six banded Aug, high counts through season. **Magnolia Warbler**: max seven Downsville BBS; post breeding max six BSP 10 Aug. **Cape May Warbler**: only one CHEN 6 Jun (EH), late migrant. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: 12 reports Jun, max "several"; six July, four Aug, high count. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: 12 on four BBS; only two Jul, Aug, scarce. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: max 15 Downsville BBS; 14 CORT 9 Jun (BP); only two Jul, Aug, scarce. **Blackburnian Warbler**: max 11 Downsville BBS; post breeding max four BSF 10 Aug (EH); banded Vestal 31 Aug, good. **Pine Warbler**: BROO one 31 Jul, two 26 Aug (MP), no details. **Prairie Warbler**: ten sites Jun, max four; banded Vestal 27 Aug, only other report. **Black-and-white Warbler**: max six Downsville BBS; nesting CHEN yard 22-30 Jun, imm there 30 Jul (EH). **Am. Redstart**: 35 on seven BBS; eight banded Vestal

Aug, high counts. **N. Waterthrush**: max three CORT 9 Jun; three singles Jul, last banded 19 Aug, scarce. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: only four singles Jun, scarce, stream water levels too high? **Mourning Warbler**: max 10 CORT 9 Jun (BP); last banded 31 Aug, high counts through period. **Canada Warbler**: max five on two BBS; two nesting pair OPM 11 Jun; FY 8 Aug; four banded 25-27 Aug, good count

Scarlet Tanager: 37 on five BBS, scarce Aug. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: 30 on seven BBS, low. **Indigo Bunting**: 50 on seven BBS; three imm OPM cornfield 30 Aug last, low. **Rufous-sided Towhee**: max seven Whitney Pt BBS, generally scarce. **Field Sparrow**: 29 on seven BBS, low count for second successive year. **Vesper Sparrow**: OPM 28 Jun; at least two Burlington Flats through period; BROO 17 Aug, scarce. **Savannah Sparrow**: 20 on six BBS; post breeding max three CHEN 10 Aug, scarce. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: only one CHEN 6 Jun (EH). **Henslow's Sparrow**: BROO 19 Jun (ML, FL), only report. **White-throated Sparrow**: max 12 CORT 9 Jun and McDonough BBS 16 Jun. **White-crowned Sparrow**: CHEN 6 Jun (EH), late. **Bobolink**: migration max several hundred working tops of cornfields Coventry CHEN ca. 27 Aug (JSa), high count. **E. Meadowlark**: max 11 Lisle BBS, otherwise scarce. **N. Oriole**: 53 on seven BBS; 11 Aug reports, max six. **Evening Grosbeak**: two n OTSE feeder 18 Aug (LC), early migrants?

7 Spencer Drive, Oneonta, New York 13820

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

DOROTHY W. CRUMB AND JIM THROCKMORTON

Summer: the second and warmest season of the year, between spring and autumn... What more can be said about this summer season? Many reporters commented that it was so quiet that they didn't get out much. Both June and July were above normal in temperature, with six days having temperatures in the 90s; on 16, 17 and 18 June the thermometer hit 93°F. Precipitation was below normal for these two months. June averaged 67.9°F, or plus 2.6°, but had 2.38 inches of rain, 1.41 inches below normal. July averaged 72.9°F, or 2.5° above normal, with a total of only 2.64 inches of rain, 1.17 inches below average. But the cold pattern of last winter had not changed, it had only shifted north for the summer. It came south just enough to break the summer heat. In fact, in August, we saw overnight lows in the 40s five times. The daytime high was in

the 60s and 70s nineteen days, and the high hit or exceeded 80 for only 12 days. The average August temperature was 67.5°F, which was 0.9° below normal. Rainfall exceeded normal by 1.68 inches with a total of 5.19 for the month. In other words, August was cold and wet.

One species that definitely benefited from the warm June was the Eastern Bluebird. It was feared that many would be lost over the heavy winter, but any loss was balanced by the warm weather which allowed more broods to fledge. John Rogers reported that his bluebird trail north of Oneida Lake had little loss compared to the last two cold, wet springs. Even though he had fewer active boxes, the bluebirds fledged 328 young compared with 312 last year. Other thrushes did not fare as well.

Still on the down side, there were only four sightings of Carolina Wren for the entire summer and only two sightings of Sedge Wren. Carolina Wren numbers had increased for a few years, but the last two severe winters may have finally taken their toll on this southern species near the edge of its range. Populations of the grassland species are still not improving, and no Henslow's Sparrow was found for the third year in a row. Eastern Meadowlark numbers were also down. It was missed for the first time on the Kasoag BBS and for the third year in a row on the North Victory BBS. Bobolink numbers were also down on all Breeding Bird Surveys. There was no report of Horned Lark for the entire season.

Common Loon nested again on four lakes near Old Forge in Herkimer County, and all brought off two young. There were more reports than usual of Osprey, but only four successful nestings were reported. The two nests near Baldwinsville each fledged two young. Nests on Moss Lake and Big Moose Lake in the Adirondacks fledged one and two young, respectively. Acadian Flycatcher in the Town of Van Buren were active again for the third summer in a row and fledged at least two young from a late nest. One young was still present into September. Other flycatchers, particularly Eastern Phoebe, were widespread, but no large numbers were reported. Least Flycatcher was low on two Breeding Bird Surveys.

Twenty-three species of shorebirds were reported, none in unusual numbers. The rarest was a Long-billed Dowitcher. A Willet and a total of six Whimbrel also were reported.

Great Egret did not come north to central New York in as large numbers as in the last few years. There were singles only from two locations and two at Onondaga Lake. The big surprise was one from Third Lake in the Adirondacks seen by Bill Purcell on 7 Aug. This is the

first report ever from such northern habitat. A Cattle Egret was the first Region 5 spring record since 1987.

Two species of duck, Ring-necked Duck and Common Goldeneye, that usually nest further north, were seen with downy young. Gary Lee observed the *Common Goldeneye* with five young on a small pond near Big Moose at the end of June. Although singles have been reported on three previous summers, this is the first confirmed Regional nesting. The *Ring-necked Duck* was reported by Craig Fosdick from Oswego harbor on 4 Sep. This is only the second confirmed nesting, the other from Herkimer County in 1984.

A Prothonotary Warbler was found in good nesting habitat late in the season but it did not stay. A Northern Parula was present in the Town of Van Buren on 30 Jun in the same place that it nested last year, although the nesting was not confirmed this summer. Prairie Warbler was not found in OSWE where it had been for three previous springs. Hooded Warbler continued to expand, with a singing male found 3 and 5 August at Sandy Pond and a pair being very active in St. Marys Cemetery in Dewitt into the nesting season.

Gene Huggins continued monitoring Common Nighthawk migration at Syracuse University campus. He observed for four days in 1993 and counted 389 nighthawks. At the end of August in 1994 he was present for 10 days but saw only 144 individuals; 56 other nighthawks were seen in other parts of Region 5 during the same time period.

Evening Grosbeak lead into the fall season. Although they nested normally in the Adirondacks, the two that Jeanne Ryan saw fly over Cazenovia on 30 Aug were most unusual. Is this a sign of things to come?

Highlights of the season were the Adirondacks Great Egret, Cattle Egret, early Long-billed Dowitcher, Whimbrel, Willet and Prothonotary Warbler. The downward trends were the continuing low numbers of grassland species and apparent losses of Carolina Wren over the winter. Thrushes and flycatchers also appeared in low numbers. 189 species and one hybrid were reported this summer compared to 188 last summer. The editors again express their appreciation to the 29 observers who sent in their reports and to Dave Eichorn for notes on weather.

Contributors: Sue Adair, Sue Boettger, Joe Brin, John Confer, Dorothy Crumb, Paul DeBenedictis, Mary Dreiling, Dave Eichorn, Robert Evans, Bill Gruenbaum, John Hanyak, Gene Huggins, Mary Alice Koeneke, Gary Lee, Robert Long, Bob McKinney, David Nash, Paul Novak, Cindy Page, Wayne Powell, Bill Purcell, John Rogers, Steve Rulison, Marge Rusk, Jeanne Ryan, Maureen Staloff, Jim Throckmorton, Judy Thurber, Glenn Wolford, Ken Zoller.

Abbreviations: Adks – Adirondacks; CIM – Clay Marsh ONON; NPT – northern Pompey Township, ONON; OnonL – Onondaga Lake; SPd – Sandy Pond, OSWE; SVB – Sylvan-Verona Beach, ONEI.

Summer Reports: **Com. Loon:** *intro.* **Pied-billed Grebe:** only at three locations. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 260 SPd 29 Aug, 50 Delta L 28 Aug. **Least Bittern:** one report. **Great Egret:** one Utica Marsh 8 Jun (MS). **Cattle Egret:** *intro.* **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** unusual location one Sage Creek Marsh OSWE 17 June (MR). **Wood Duck:** max 250 Delta L 29 Aug. **N. Pintail:** two locations 17 May (early), 28 Aug (late). **Blue-winged Teal:** max 200 Delta L 28 Aug. **Ring-necked Duck:** *intro.* **Com. Goldeneye:** *intro.* **Com. Merganser:** max 134 Holland Patent 14–15 Jul (RE), eight y Old Forge 10 Jul.

Osprey: *intro.* **Bald Eagle:** three reports, Holland Patent Jul only one outside Adks. **Merlin:** injured bird Syracuse 29 Aug examined by CP then given to Cornell for rehabilitation. **Wild Turkey:** reported by many observers. **Com. Moorhen:** max 18 Delta L 28 Aug. **Semipalmated Plover:** max 15 SPd 29 Aug. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 12 Delta L 28 Aug. **Willet:** one Delta L 29 Aug (BMCK). **Ruddy Turnstone:** max 105 L Oneida early Jun, invaded Com. Tern colony. **Sanderling:** max 100 SPd 6 Aug. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 200 SPd 13 Aug. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** singles SPd 3 and 22 Aug. **Least Sandpiper:** max 35 Delta L 28 Aug. **Baird's Sandpiper:** max four SPd 7 and 13 Aug. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** max four Delta L 28 Aug. **Stilt Sandpiper:** one T Lysander 13 Aug. **Whimbrel:** four SPd 3 Aug, two on 22 Aug (DC, JThr). **Long-billed Dowitcher:** one SPd 20 Jul (BP!), record early. **Caspian Tern:** max 105 SPd 16 Aug. **Com. Tern:** max 155 SPd 23 Aug. **Black Tern:** max 24 SPd 20 Aug.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: only four reports. **Com. Nighthawk:** *intro.* **Whip-poor-will:** max five Constantia 3 Jun. **Chimney Swift:** max 27 Syracuse 22 Aug. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** max eight NPT 15–31 Aug. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** only three sightings. **Black-backed Woodpecker:** only sighting one Old Forge 18 Aug.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: three locations. **Acadian Flycatcher:** *intro.* **Willow Flycatcher:** max 23 CIM 15 Jun. **Carolina Wren:** *intro.* **Sedge Wren:** two report T Clay. **Marsh Wren:** max 27 CIM 22 Jun. **Eastern Bluebird:** *intro.* **Veery:** BBS total 49, 54 in 1993. **Wood Thrush:** BBS total 49, 65 last year.

Philadelphia Vireo: one SVB 27 Aug, one T Van Buren ONON 24 Aug. **Golden-winged Warbler X Blue-winged Warbler:** two Lawrence's type near Pulaski (JC). **Orange-crowned Warbler:** only report one Old Forge 18 Aug (DC, JThu). **N. Parula:** *intro.* **Prairie Warbler:** *intro.*

Prothonotary Warbler: one W Monroe 30 Jun (PN). **Louisiana Waterthrush:** only two reports. **Hooded Warbler:** *intro*.

Field Sparrow: max six. **Vesper Sparrow:** max two. **Savannah Sparrow:** max 12. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** max three. **Henslow's Sparrow:** none. **E. Meadowlark:** max nine, *intro*. **Purple Finch:** eight CIM 22 Jun (DN), unusual location. **Evening Grosbeak:** *intro*.

Corrigendum: Vol 44(2): **Com. Merganser:** 1600 OnonL 7 Feb.

3983 Gates Road, Jamesville, New York 13078

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

ROBERT E. LONG

After a chilly start, June became sunny and warm, a pattern which persisted for seven weeks. A heat wave engulfed the North country from 11 to 20 Jun, raising temperatures into the 90's. Wanakena recorded a high of 92°F on 18 Jun. Temperatures for June and July were two to four degrees above normal for the Region. A series of cold fronts in August brought temperatures slightly below normal for the remainder of the period. Precipitation was about average in the Adirondacks and St. Lawrence valley but below average in the Ontario lake plain. By 15 Jun, water levels for Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River were 14 inches lower than 1993, a return to normal levels.

Vegetation began to show winter kill as the last trees and shrubs leafed and blossomed in mid June. Particularly hard hit were White Ash and many *Viburnum* species. Dutch Elm disease was widespread in JEFF and StLA. Fruit production was very good and heavy cone production in White Spruce, Red Cedar and White Cedar was noted.

Positives for the summer include increased reports of American and Least Bittern, Great Egret, American Black Duck, Mallard, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Red-headed Woodpecker, Black-billed Cuckoo, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Thanks to low water levels, the flight at El Dorado was the best in years and featured Baird's and Western Sandpiper along with Whimbrel.

Gerry Smith launched a new Nature Conservancy project this summer, leading an expedition on June 15 to 17 to the Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper property in the Towns of Montague, Martinsburg and West Turin LEWI which had previously been off limits to the public. The best discovery an adult and a fourth-year Bald Eagle found near a wetland

by Smith and Bill Purcell on two separate days. This suggests a possibility of breeding and will need further field work next year. Additional positives for the Lyons Falls team were, Red-shouldered Hawk, and high counts for Common Snipe, Alder Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Parula Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler and Canada Warbler.

The other Nature Conservancy project was completion of the Lake Ontario Migratory Bird Survey which covered the littoral areas of the Towns of Henderson, Lyme and Brownville JEFF. This effort produced a new species for the region, a singing *Kentucky Warbler*. Other interesting results were high counts of Least and Willow Flycatchers and late migrating Tennessee and Blackpoll Warblers.

With it's extensive grasslands and wet meadows, Region 6 probably has the most extensive habitat for the declining (and hard to find) Sedge Wren and Vesper, Grasshopper, and Henslow's Sparrows. This summer, Dean DiTommaso and Nick Leone made a concerted effort to find these species with impressive results. DiTommaso found seven singing male Sedge Wren in STLA and with two additional reports, the total of nine was the second highest in Region 6 history. Leone made several night surveys for Sedge Wren around Perch River WMA in the Towns of Brownville, Orleans, and Pamela JEFF. From 2:00 AM to 4:00 AM on 6 Jul, Leone counted 33 singing male Sedge Wren. By 15 Jul the numbers had declined to 15 due to cutting of the fields; still impressive and probably not equaled in the State. A Region high total of 14 Grasshopper sparrow was found by Leone, DiTommaso and Paul Novak, seven at Fort Drum and the remainder spread around JEFF. Finally, 30 Vesper Sparrow were tallied by Leone on Routes 29 and 37 at Fort Drum.

Another highlight was the discovery of a singing *Palm Warbler* seen on 25 Jun near the Grass River Flow, Town Line Pond T Colton STLA by Jay Hand, Curtis Smith and Sean O'Brien. O'Brien made a tape recording of the bird for the NYSARC report. The bird was also seen by John Fritz at that location on 26 Jun and again on 24 Aug. This is a Regional first probable breeding attempt. A pair of *Orchard Oriole* was reported in the Region in the summer of 1958; this year a nest was found, the northernmost for the State although nesting has been confirmed on the Ontario side of the St. Lawrence River.

Negatives for the period include failure of the 5000 pair of Double-crested Cormorant to breed on Little Galoo Island due to a population crash in their main food, the Alewife; decline of the Black-crowned Night-Heron colony on Gull Island; reduced numbers of the following

neotropical migrants: Broad-winged Hawk, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Kingbird, Purple Martin, Barn Swallow, Red-eyed Vireo, Chestnut-sided Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, and Bobolink. Declines in intracontinental migrants due to the harsh winter well south of New York State were observed in Carolina Wren, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and Eastern Meadowlark.

In addition to the species already noted, rarities for the period include Snowy Egret, Little Gull, Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, and Boreal Chickadee.

Contributors: Sue Adair, Marilyn Badger, Richard Brouse, Bernie Carr, Sheila and Bob Cerwonka, Lee Chamberlaine, Ken Crowell, Bruce DiLabio, Dean DiTommaso, John Fritz, Michael Greenwald, Jay Hand, R. Halladay, Paul Kelly, B. Kirby, Mary Alice Koeneker, Nick Leone, Larry Linder, Debbie and Steve Litwhiler, Robert Long, Gene McGory, Frank Mueller, Sandy Muller, Paul Novak, Peter O'Shea, David Prosser, Bill Purcell, Greg Pryor, Gerry Smith, Neil Stewart and Mary and Brian Wood.

Abbreviations: CV - Cape Vincent, JEFF; DMWMA - Dexter Marsh WMA, T Hounsfield & Brownville, JEFF; ED - El Dorado Beach Preserve, T Ellisburg, JEFF; GrI - Grindstone I, SLR, T Clayton, JEFF; HB - Henderson Bay, T Hounsfield, JEFF; HSUA - Henderson Shores Unique Area, T Henderson JEFF; LWMA - Lakeview WMA, T Ellisburg, JEFF; LC - Limeric Cedars, T Brownville, JEFF; LOMBS - Lake Ontario Migratory Bird Survey 2-6 Jun (GS); TLou - T Louisville, StLA; LFPP - Lyons Falls Pulp & Paper Property, T Montague, Martinsburg, West Turin, LEWI 15-17 Jun (GS, BP, SA, MK); OBBS - Ogdensburg BBS, 17 Jun (RL); PPt - Pillar Point, T Brownville, JEFF; PRWMA - Perch River WMA JEFF; PBBS - Philadelphia BBS 2 Jul (RL); PtPen - Point Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF; RMPD - Robert Moses Power Dam and vicinity, T Massena, StLA; SLR - St. Lawrence R; SLRV - St. Lawrence R Valley; SBSP - Southwick Beach SP; Tug Hill - Tug Hill, JEFF & LEWI; ULLWMA - Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton, StLA; WBBS - Wanakena BBS 3 Jul (RL); WMA - Wildlife Management Area; WBM - Wilson Bay Marsh, T Cape Vincent, JEFF; WHWMA - Wilson Hill WMA, T Louisville, StLA.

Summer Reports: **Com. Loon:** many pairs, no young seen. **Pied-billed Grebe:** six-eight calling ULLWMA 8 Jun, breeding at PRWMA and Dexter Marsh WMA, single Barnes Corners LEWI, seven at WHWMA 30 Jul. **Double-crested Cormorant:** *intro.* **Am. Bittern:** ten scattered reports. **Least Bittern:** pairs at ULLWMA and WHWMA, singles at LWMA and Grasse R TLou. **Great Blue Heron:** colony at

Ironsides I SLR continues to decline but a new colony, 44 nests with y, in a beaver flooded woods T Morristown StLA. **Great Egret:** two ad PRWMA, single at Madrid StLA, imm Barnes Corners LEWI Tug Hill, numbers increasing due to breeding colony in Canada on the Akwesane Reservation. **Snowy Egret:** one ED 20 Jul (PK&GP), one Luff Shores PtPen 24 Aug (SM). **Green Heron:** reports from Henderson, PRWMA, LWMA, WBM, TLou, six y HP. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** six (ad & y) Gull I HH 6 Jul, down from 30 nests last year; four ad on breakwall CV 9 Jul. **Mute Swan:** five ad, three y PRWMA 28 Jun. **Snow Goose:** one PPt. 5 Jun (DP), late. **Canada Goose:** large numbers breeding PRWMA and throughout the SLRV, large flocks moving south in late August. **Green-winged Teal:** pair Route 37 TLou 9 Jun (MB). **Am. Black Duck:** eight Commerce Road T Massena 20 Jun; ad, 12 y Sand Bay CV 21 Jun; six FL RMPD 26 Jun, three ad RMPD 27 Jun; four WHWMA 30 Jul; pairs often on Beaver ponds in Adirondacks (PO); one LFPP 15 Jun; singles ED and PRWMA Aug. **Mallard:** widely reported, nine families 56 y SLR T Morristown, back to average numbers. **Blue-winged Teal:** one to three Route 37 & Brownie Road TLou 2-29 Jun, singles LFPP 15, 17 Jun, late max 16 ED 23 Aug. **Gadwall:** pair TLou 2 Jun, 12 WHWMA 30 Jul. **Am. Wigeon:** female & seven y WHWMA 30 Jul (BD). **White-winged Scoter:** one female RMPD 2 Jul. **Com. Goldeneye:** first spring male WHWMA 10 Jun, male RMPD 2 Jul. **Hooded Merganser:** three LFPP Jun 17. **Com. Merganser:** two-three RMPD 6-28 Aug.

Turkey Vulture: one-four/day widespread. **Osprey:** active nests T Waddington and T Oswegatchie StLA, no y reported; one in courtship display ULLWMA 8 Jun (PN); one Raquette R T Colton 18 Aug, two PRWMA 29 Aug. **Bald Eagle:** *intro*; pair at Blake Res T Parishville StLA, no y seen (SBC), first year bird WHWMA 30 Jun (DD), imm RMPD 28 Aug (BD), ad Jamestown Falls Raquette R T Colton StLA 24 Jun (PO), ad CV 28 Jun (MBW). **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** seven singles reported. **Cooper's Hawk:** pair with two y T Canton 23 Aug (MG); one Watertown 21-31 Aug (RB). **N. Goshawk:** one pursuing Green Heron T Lorraine 19 Jun (SDL), one Town Line Road Massawepie T Piercefield StLA (PO). **Red-shouldered Hawk:** two, one calling loudly LFPP (GS BP). **Broad-winged Hawk:** one LFPP 16 Jun, only three individuals seen in the Adirondacks, very scarce (PO). **Am. Kestrel:** seventeen separate sightings in the grasslands as well as the Adirondacks, breeding near CV (MBW). **Gray Partridge:** female with five y Valley Road CV early Jun; one to two at feeder near WBM 13-20 Jun (MBW). **Ring-necked Pheasant:** one T Henenderson LOMBS 5 Jun; one cock T Piercefield StLA 4 Jun, recent release? **Ruffed Grouse:** more reports than usual,

max 11 TLou 1-4 Jun, eight LFPP, scarce in Adirondacks (PO). **Wild Turkey:** numbers down according to NYDEC but many reports were received; ad with 12 poults LOMBS 5 Jun; seven small poults Stony Pt T Henderson 23 Aug (LC); five near Tupper L StLA 20 Jun, two T Pitcairn StLA 3 Jun, one TLou 20 Jun. **Virginia Rail:** max eight GrI 4 Jun. **Com. Moorhen:** four ad with four y WBM 24 Aug; four PRWMA 10 Aug. **Am. Coot:** one TLou 22 Jun (MB). **Black-bellied Plover:** arr ED 5 Aug, max three 19 Aug. **Semipalmated Plover:** arr ED 31 Jul, max 19 (18 juv) 23 Aug. **Killdeer:** max 11 ED 27 Jul. **Greater Yellowlegs:** arr ED 20 Jul, max five 21 Aug; one Coles Creek T Waddington 27 Jul. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr ED 17 Jul, max 21 ED 17 Aug. **Spotted Sandpiper:** breeding T Massena, T Morristown StLA; max 12 ED 14 Aug. **Upland Sandpiper:** ten reports from grassland areas in JEFF and StLA. **Whimbrel:** arr ED 13 Aug (GP, BC), two ED 18 Aug (PK), last ED 23 Aug. **Ruddy Turnstone:** arr RMPD 30 Jul, single ED 14 Aug, max six ED 17 Aug. **Sanderling:** arr ED 27 Jul (31), max 100+ ED 7 Aug. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr ED 17 Jul (8), max 70 ED 23 Aug. **W. Sandpiper:** one ED 24 Aug (LL & GM). **Least Sandpiper:** arr ED 17 Jul, max 66 ED 23 Aug. **Baird's Sandpiper:** arr ED 17 Aug, singles ED 23 & 26 Aug. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr two ED 21 Aug, one ED 26 Aug. **Short-billed Dowitcher:** two ED 29 Aug. **Com. Snipe:** max 12 LFPP. **Am. Woodcock:** max eight TLou 2 Jun. **Little Gull:** molting ad RMPD 6 Aug (BD). **Bonaparte's Gull:** arr 56 two juv RMPD 30 Jul, max 92 (two juv) on 13 Aug, max 30 HB 23 Aug. **Herring Gull:** arr 15 (one juv) RMPD 30 Jul, max 16 on 28 Aug. **Great Black-backed Gull:** four RMPD 2 Jul, max 120 (two juv) on 30 Jul. **Caspian Tern:** no breeding report; two WHWMA 10 Jun (DD); max eight ED 31 Jul. **Com. Tern:** good breeding results, no details. **Forster's Tern:** one ED 20 Jul. **Black Tern:** breeding colonies did well, 280 Luff Shores PtPen 19 Aug (SM).

Black-billed Cuckoo: eighteen reports, one report before 16 Jun, mainly from L Ontario plain and SLRV, three from Tug Hill, late due to cold weather. **E. Screech-Owl:** pair CV. **Great Horned Owl:** breeding pairs Watertown, Canton, CV. **Com. Nighthawk:** one near Tupper L. StLA (PO), two Watertown (RB), singles in city of Massena and TLou (MB). **Whip-poor-will:** two TLou 2 Jun, one Burnt Rock Road CV 13 Jun. **Chimney Swift:** reports from T Henderson, CV, T Morristown, Ogdensburg, T Massena, max 20 T Massena 20 Aug, last CV 22 Aug. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** good numbers throughout. **Red-headed woodpecker:** one Canton 1 Jun (RH), three ad Woodside Cemetery. T Ellisburg 19 Jun (GM), one mixer Road T Ellisburg 3 Aug (LC), two ad RMSP 6 Aug. **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** breeding pair with one y T

Henderson (LC). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: four LFPP; max 14 WBBS, high. **Downy Woodpecker**: max ten TLou 2 Jun. **Hairy Woodpecker**: max 10 TLou 2 Jun. **Black-backed Woodpecker**: one T Clifton StLA (PO); two middle branch Oswegatchie R T Fine StLA 4 Jul (DD); two Grass R Flow near Massawepie T Colton 24 Aug (JF).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: one LOMBS PPt 2 Jun, several reports from Adirondacks, one LFPP, last CV 24 Aug. **E. Wood-Pewee**: breeding in CV and TLou, low numbers in JEFF (LC) and StLA (RL). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: reports from Streeter's Bog T Fine StLA, Bog R T Colton StLA, and LFPP, last CV 24 Aug. **Alder Flycatcher**: reports from SLRV and Tug Hill, max nine LFPP. **Willow Flycatcher**: one OBBS, max 19 NAMBS. **Least Flycatcher**: poor in Adirondacks, max 20 LFPP; seven LOMBS. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: max 11 LFPP. **E. Kingbird**: many breeding reports from SLR Valley but low numbers on grassland BBS routes. **Purple Martin**: breeding reports from SLRV but lower numbers of adults for second year in a row. **Tree Swallow**: good numbers throughout, max 12,000 T Ellisburg JEFF 6 Aug (PK). **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: one LC 4 Jun. **Bank Swallow**: many breeding reports, max 25 T Massena 20 Jun, last HSUA 3 Aug. **Cliff Swallow**: 15 with y Tug Hill T Worth Jul (LC), max 200+ RMPD 4 Jun (MB). **Barn Swallow**: numbers down 15-20% on grassland BBS; last T Henderson 25 Aug. **Gray Jay**: two Streeter's Bog T Fine StLA 11 Jun, 4 Jul (DD), two Grass R Flow T Colton 24 Aug (JF). **Com. Raven**: several reports from Tug Hill and Adirondacks. **Boreal Chickadee**: nest Peavine Swamp T Clifton StLA 11 Jun (DD). **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: reports from Tug Hill, Adirondacks, Canton, T Massena. **Brown Creeper**: pair TLou 1 Jun, singles from LFPP, Grass R Flow T Colton StLA, last SBSP 13 Aug. **Carolina Wren**: two Kelsey Creek Watertown 6 Jun-18 Jul (RB). **House Wren**: average numbers on BBS. **Winter Wren**: nine LFPP, ten WBBS. **Sedge Wren**: *intro*. **Marsh Wren**: eight LWMA 6 Jul, six DMWMA, max 16 GrI 4 Jun (RL). **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: two WBBS; one Grass R Flow T Colton 24 Aug; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: singing male Peavine Swamp T Clifton StLA 11 Jun; one Streeter's Bog T Fine 11 Jun, 4 Jul (DD). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: singles LOMBS, Sawyer's Bay T Henderson 20-21 Jun, Canton 15 Aug (BK), more reports than usual. **Veery**: low numbers JEFF (LC), doing well otherwise, ten RMPD 16 Jun, 14 LFPP; max 23 WBBS, average. **Swainson's Thrush**: eight LFPP, more common this year in Boreal forest (PO). **Hermit Thrush**: four LFPP, nine WBBS, average. **Wood Thrush**: max 45 eight locations TLou and T Massena 1-16 Jun, average numbers WBBS as well; numbers down in L Ontario plain. **N. Mockingbird**: one Route 56 T Norfolk 5 Jun, one south Village CV 11-17

Jul. Brown Thrasher: pairs T Massena, CV, six LC 28 Jun, max ten LOMBS.

Solitary Vireo: eight WBBS, ten LFPP, ad feeding two cowbird Chase L T Watson LEWI (NS). **Yellow-throated Vireo:** three singles T Canton, Rossie, Macomb StLA 4-6 Jun (DD), three LFPP. **Warbling Vireo:** several reports T Henderson, average numbers on grassland BBSs, max 15 TLou, same as last year. **Red-eyed Vireo:** down 40% on WBBS. **Blue-winged Warbler:** one not singing Blue-winged song T Lorraine (DL), one LOMBS. **Golden-winged Warbler:** singles on OBBS and PBBS. **Tennessee Warbler:** five LOMBS; one TLou 18 Jun, late. **Nashville Warbler:** three LFPP, four WBBS, one T Massena 14 Jul, last ED 16 Aug. **N. Parula:** three LFPP. **Yellow Warbler:** 31 OBBS, 65 T Massena-TLou 1-9 Jun, average. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 21 T Massena, TLou early Jun, down 30%; eight WBBS down 50%, 18 LFPP. **Magnolia Warbler:** nine LFPP, five WBBS, average. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 12 LFPP, three WBBS. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 13 WBBS, average, breeding at ED; common breeder in mature N. White Cedar T Morristown StLA. **Black-throated Green Warbler:** five WBBS and LFPP. **Blackburnian Warbler:** 11 LFPP, singles, WBBS, Grass R Flow T Colton StLA. **Pine Warbler:** two DMWMA 13 Jun, six TLou Jun. **Prairie Warbler:** eight LC 4 Jun (NL). **Palm Warbler:** intro. **Blackpoll Warbler:** last 15 LOMBS, two T Massena 2 Jun. **Cerulean Warbler:** singing male Black L Road T Macomb StLA 4 Jun (DD). **Black-and-white Warbler:** 25 TLou, T Massena Jun, increase; four WBBS; two LC 4 Jun. **Am. Redstart:** 40 TLou, T Massena Jun, 17 WBBS down 30 %, 22 LFPP. **Ovenbird:** 21 TLou, T Massena down 50%, 16 WBBS average. **N. Waterthrush:** max six LFPP, one TLou 7 Jun. **Kentucky Warbler:** one Pillar Pt 4 Jun (GS). **Mourning Warbler:** max seven LFPP, singles T Colton 7 Jun, WBBS, LOMBS, T Lorraine. **Com. Yellowthroat:** 51 OBBS, PBBS, up 10%. **Canada Warbler:** one T Massena 9 Jun, five WBBS, high, max seven LFPP.

Scarlet Tanager: five T canton Project Tanager (KC), max 10 TLou Jun, four LFPP. **N. Cardinal:** 28 TLou, T Massena Jun, six OBBS, still increasing. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** six WBBS and LFPP, max 20 TLou, T Massena Jun. **Indigo Bunting:** few reports, 11 PBBS above average. **Chipping Sparrow:** down 20-50 % on all BBS and T Massena. **Field Sparrow:** low numbers, max four TLou, T Massena. **Vesper Sparrow:** intro. **Savannah Sparrow:** average numbers on grassland BBSs. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** intro. **Henslow's Sparrow:** intro. **Song Sparrow:** low numbers everywhere, down 30 % on OBBS for first time in 15 years, down 50 % on TLou, T Massena surveys. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** one Grass R Flow T Colton 24 Aug (JF), one Peavine Swamp T Clifton StLA 11 Jun.

Swamp Sparrow: low numbers, max 15 TLou, T Massena down 50 percent. **White-throated Sparrow:** 28 WBBS, 8% below average; 26 T Massena average. **White-crowned Sparrow:** one TLou 1 Jun, late. **Bobolink:** 14 OBBS down 30%, also down at PRWMA. **E. Meadowlark:** down 40% on grassland BBS"s. **Orchard Oriole:** pair with nest Chaumont Bay JEFF (DP), first confirmed Regional nesting record. **N. Oriole:** 11 TLou 1 Jun, eight T Lorraine 17 Aug. **House Finch:** high numbers at feeders. **Red Crossbill:** two Grass R Flow T Colton StLA 24 Aug (JF). **Pine Siskin:** small flock near Tupper L StLA 2 Jul (PO), late. **Evening Grosbeak:** 13 TLou Jun.

2807 Citation Drive, Pompey, New York 13138

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M. C. PETERSON

The cold, late spring finally gave way to a generally warm and pleasant summer. Periodic cloudbursts brought downpours that kept the level of Lake Champlain high, concentrating shorebirds at just a few spots. The lake was at 96' at the end of July and was still well above 95' through August.

Merlin had an exceptional year, with breeding now confirmed in three counties and probable in a fourth. The pair at Mirror Lake ESSE had 2-3 fledglings "weeping" and begging daily in late July according to Pat Tarkowski, and they were seen 21 Jul by Greenleaf Chase, Bob Hagar, and Larry Master. Marylou Schwartau reported *Merlin* calling at Osgood Pond FRAN on the Fourth of July, just 3.5 miles from the 1992 nest at Spitfire Lake; on 26 Jul, Chase and Hagar saw two adults with five young there. Fuat Latif reported *Merlin* calling on the west shore of Tupper Lake FRAN 20 Jul. Al Mapes found *Merlin* at Lake Eldon HAMI 22 Jul; on 25 Jul Bob Budliger located two adults and a juvenile at nearby Racquette Lake, presumably the same birds. Unfortunately, the displaying pair at Morrisonville CLIN were not seen after late Apr. In hindsight, Tom Barber's Atlas period report of *Merlin* at Duck Hole may well have been correct. Note that all sightings appear to be near lakeshores, often near camps and human activity, and that the falcons are highly vocal.

However, the second consecutive cold, wet spring again had an adverse impact upon several other raptors. Osprey fledged 19 young

from a dozen active, productive nests in the Region, but another 25 active nests failed. The Ausable Marsh WMA platform was active, but failed, and a second platform was erected there 12 Aug. A bird was seen perched on the Crown Point platform, where a male was sky-dancing in May. The Lake Alice WMA platform also failed, and a new platform is planned for Wickham Marsh, the fifth for the NYS side of Lake Champlain. All Bald Eagle nestings failed. Peregrine Falcon also had their problems. Three of the eight active aeries in the Region fledged a total of just three young (down from ten young in 1993): Elizabethtown (one fledged), Chesterfield (failed), Keene (failed), North Elba (single adult), Schroon (new site, territorial pair), Westport (territorial pair), Willsboro (two young, one fledged), and Wilmington (one fledged). Who would have predicted a decade ago that Merlin would fledge more than twice as many young as Peregrine Falcon in the Adirondacks by 1994?

A total of 17 Double-crested Cormorant, 14 Cattle Egret, 43 Black-crowned Night-Heron, a Common Merganser, 1,004 Ring-billed Gull, and 207 Herring Gull was banded at the Four Brothers Islands 12 Jun-3 Aug. A record 785 Double-crested Cormorant nests were counted, up from 532 last year. Several pairs of Great Blue Heron again nested, and Cattle Egret returned to nest on Islands "B" and "D" after an absence of more than a decade. Thanks to a grant from the Lake Champlain Partnership Program, a study of cormorant food, based upon pellets or castings, was conducted and blood samples taken. Unhappily, on the first day of the study 21 adult cormorants and a Herring Gull were found shot on Island "D." More cheerful sightings at the islands included Common Loon, collared Canada Geese, Greater Scaup, Semipalmated Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper (all reported by Warden Rich MacDonald), and Common Tern noted by Stevenson. WPTZ Plattsburgh television news carried a two part story on the Four Brothers 4-5 Aug, featuring interviews with Warden MacDonald and Wildlife Manager Mike Peterson.

Wilson's Phalarope again nested at the Laurin farm CLIN as anticipated in the spring report. Mark Gretch saw and heard the male 16 and 28 Jun, and finally on 29 Jun Bill Krueger spotted the male with a nearly grown chick. The last sighting was of three phalaropes, two of them clearly juveniles, on 15 Jul. In recognition of the access and hospitality provided to visiting birders while confirming recent nesting by Wilson's Phalarope, landowners Francis and Rita Laurin were presented with a plaque by the American Birding Association. The

Federation and High Peaks Audubon join in extending thanks to the Laurins.

After consultation with Clinton County observers, the collective abbreviation "CR" will be used henceforth to denote the several rich birding areas along Lake Shore Road between the Chazy and Little Chazy Rivers; this includes the Gravelle farm, Laurin farm, and the wildlife management area to the north of the farms. In addition to the nesting Wilson's Phalarope, this stretch of shoreline between the Chazys had a number of exciting birds this summer. Gretch spotted three *Northern Shoveler* 28 Jun, and Krueger and Charlie Mitchell spotted a brood on 13 Jul, finally confirming what has been suspected since the Atlas era. Black Tern were present from 16 Jun-15 Aug, but did not nest this year. The best of many shorebirds there (aside from the phalarope) was a *Marbled Godwit*, a first for the Champlain Valley, the Region, and CLIN. Other highlights included Great Egret, Greater Scaup, and Caspian Tern.

Gretch continued his survey of Plattsburgh AFB for the NYS Natural Heritage Program, finding an unexpected 17 Grasshopper Sparrow along 3.6 miles of runway on 16 Jun, plus a nest with young the same day; 3-4 males were still vocal there as late as 4 Aug. Tentative plans following base closure now include a rail car manufacturing facility to be set up by Bombardier, Inc., of Canada and possible management by the Mohawk tribe.

A total of 331 individuals of 45 species (15 of them warblers) were banded near Elizabethtown between 31 Jul-31 Aug; among the highlights were two Wilson's Warbler 31 Aug. Bud Lanyon netted and banded an adult male Sedge Wren at North Meadow ESSE on 16 Jun; he also banded two male Philadelphia Vireo at Tahawus ESSE on 1 Jun. Judy and Roger Heintz encountered a *Blue-winged Warbler* at Sciota 28 Aug, the second CLIN record (and just two months after the first at Lake Alice).

Thanks to an active band of observers, a total of 171 species (plus an exotic) was reported, down just slightly from 174 last summer, and a good showing given the limited amount of shorebird habitat this year.

Contributors: Ken Adams, Robert Budliger, John Bruce, Geoffrey Carleton, John Ciaccio, Greenleaf Chase, Dewey & Joan Clark, Charlie Delehanty, John David Delehanty, Yvonne Farmer, Donna Frenyea, Neil Gifford, David & Patricia Gosda, Robert Hagar, Terry Hall, Jay Hand, Gordon Howard, Judy & Roger Heintz, Hal Klein, Bill Krueger, Vicki & Wesley Lanyon, Fuat Latif, Gary Lee, Richard MacDonald, Theodore Mack, Mark Manske, Al Mapes, Larry Master, Robert McKinney,

Charles Mitchell, Keith Murphy, E. J. Myers, Ruth & Tom Nix, John & Susan Peterson, Nina Schoch, Marilou Schwartau, Dean Spaulding, Carol Spierto, Langdon Stevenson, Patricia Tarkowski, Robert Wei, Denise & Hollis White.

Abbreviations: APt - Ausable Point; CR - between the Chazy & Little Chazy Rivers; CRF - Cedar River Flow; FB - Ferd's Bog; FBI - Four Brothers Islands; PAFB - Plattsburgh AFB; TL - Tupper Lake.

Summer reports: **Com. Loon:** one Bas FBI 16 Jun. **Pied-billed Grebe:** nested CRF. **Double-crested Cormorant:** *intro*; record max 1,250 FBI 29 Jul (RM, JP). **Least Bittern:** two Scomotion Creek 4 Jul (HK, BK). **Great Blue Heron:** *intro*. **Great Egret:** one CR 29 Jul-15 Aug, two on 7 Aug; Barber Pd ESSE 26 Jul (GC)-29 Jul (RM, JP); up to six daily beaver ponds Bombay FRAN (HW). **Cattle Egret:** *intro*. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** *intro*; Hogansburg Jul. **Canada Goose:** two with white neck collars FBI Jul-Aug; 45 migrating north Cheever 5 Jun late; max 85 TL municipal park local flock from 10 Aug. **Green-winged Teal:** St Regis Falls 18 Jun (TM); max 11 CR 28 Jun (MG); CRF 2 Jul, a good showing. **N. Shoveler:** *intro*. **Greater Scaup:** one CR 15 Jul; pair FBI 21 Jul (LS). **Com. Merganser:** *intro*.

Osprey: *intro*; PAFB 9 Jun; Split Rock 29 Jul. **Bald Eagle:** *intro*; CR 9 Jun; two CR 16 Jun; subad King's Bay 28 Jun; ad King's Bay 21 Jul; subad Whey Pd 31 Jul. **N. Harrier:** pair PAFB 9 Jun-29 Jul; six hand-reared banded and released Keeseville 13-19 Aug (JP, NS). **Red-tailed Hawk:** two nestlings banded Bangor 11 Jun. **Golden Eagle:** APt 9 Jun (J&RH), unexpected. **Am. Kestrel:** two nestlings banded Bangor 9 Jul. **Merlin:** *intro*. **Peregrine Falcon:** *intro*; Crown Pt 27 Aug (JB). **Gray Partridge:** Pt au Roche 16 Jun, only report. **Ring-necked Pheasant:** Cumberland Head 6 Jul, only report. **Com. Moorhen:** CR 6-19 Aug. **Semipalmated Plover:** one FBI 12 Aug. **Greater Yellowlegs:** CR 17 Jun (HK, BK, CM, EM), late CLIN date by eight days; Ausable R mouth 12 Aug. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** mouth Ausable R 12 Aug. **Solitary Sandpiper:** arr FB 6 Aug (R&TN), where unexpected. **Upland Sandpiper:** Beekmantown, Brushton, Ft Covington, and Malone representative. **Marbled Godwit:** one CR 4 Aug and 20-21 Aug (HK, CM). **Ruddy Turnstone:** seven FBI 19 Aug. **Sanderling:** two FBI 12 Aug. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** one FBI 12-19 Aug. **Least Sandpiper:** one FBI 19 Aug; arr CR 6 Aug (JP). **Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr CR 13 Jul (BK, CM), early CLIN by three days. **Short-billed Dowitcher:** CR 6-12 Aug (D&JC, BK, RM, CM, JP, LS); two mouth Ausable R 12 Aug (LS), unusual. **Wilson's Phalarope:** *intro*. **Bonaparte's Gull:** arr Abanaki L HAM 25 Jul (GL), where highly unusual; Auger Pd ESSE 2 Aug (GH),

another unusual inland locale; reports from CR, Westport, and King's Bay 3-6 Aug more expected. **Ring-billed Gull:** *intro*. **Herring Gull:** *intro*. **Great Black-backed Gull:** *ca.* nine pair nesting FBI. **Caspian Tern:** one CR 24 Jun (HK, CM). **Com. Tern:** one FBI 7 Jul. **Black Tern:** *intro*; 3-4 breeding King's Bay WMA 21 Jul (MG).

Rock Dove: one found dead with "AU" band HAMI Jul (GL) belonged to Adirondack Racing Pigeon Club in Queensbury; one with "CU" band died CLIN 8 Jul (DF), belonged to Association Col. Ind. Maissoneuve in Montreal. **Black-billed Cuckoo:** Westport 3 Jul (TH, BK); singing FB 6 Aug (R&TN), where highly unexpected. **N. Saw-whet Owl:** 7th L all summer. **Com. Nighthawk:** four over downtown TL 15 Jun, one there 30 Jul (CD), only reports. **Three-toed Woodpecker:** FB 3 Jul-6 Aug, only location. **Black-backed Woodpecker:** North Meadow 18 Jun, FB 25 Jun-6 Aug, Helldiver Pd I Aug, FY Brown's Tract 27 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Raquette L. 9 Jun; Hurricane Mt 12 Jun; FB 25 Jun-6 Aug; record early migrant heard Elizabethtown 30 Jul (JP); Helldiver Pd I Aug; down slope migrant banded Porter Mt 8 Aug (WL), also early. **Willow Flycatcher:** Beekmantown 14 Jun (BK); APt 11 Aug (BK, LS), always a good find here. **Horned Lark:** three PAFB 16 Jun. **Gray Jay:** two y FB 25 Jun; Helldiver Pd. 18 Jul-1 Aug; pair FB 6 Aug, chased by Solitary Vireo! **Boreal Chickadee:** Beaver Brook, FB, Gabriels, Giant Mt, Marion R, North Meadow, Raquette L, and Wakely Mt, a good showing. **Sedge Wren:** *intro*. **Marsh Wren:** CR 6 Aug. **"Bicknell's" Gray-cheeked Thrush:** four Hurricane Mt 12 Jun (JC, DS); Dean adds, "What is interesting is that we had one Bicknell's in the exact spot on the mountain, in the exact tree, in exactly the same spot in the tree, at exactly the same time, on exactly the same day that I saw it last year. Talk about being territorial;" Blue Mt I Jul, Wakely Mt 3 Jul. **Am. Robin:** pair Wilmington raised one white young in each brood (YF).

Philadelphia Vireo: *intro*. **Blue-winged Warbler:** *intro*. **Cape May Warbler:** one Gabriels BBS 16 June (TM). **Pine Warbler:** in fragmented pitch pine PAFB 9-10 Jun, 29 Jul. **Palm Warbler:** FB 18 Aug (GL), presumably a transient. **Blackpoll Warbler:** Hurricane Mt 12 Jun; Wakely Mt 3 Jul; FB 6 Aug, representative. **Louisiana Waterthrush:** pair giving distraction display Dry Mill Creek CLIN 10 Jun (HK, BK, CM), a good find. **Mourning Warbler:** five banded Elizabethtown 6-31 Aug (JP), a good showing. **Wilson's Warbler:** *intro*.

Scarlet Tanager: female feeding Brown-headed Cowbird L Alice 10 Aug. **Vesper Sparrow:** max 12 PAFB 16 Jun. **Savannah Sparrow:** max 19

PAFB 16 Jun. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: *intro*. **Red Crossbill**: one Helldiver Pd 1 Aug; flock FB 6 Aug; Elizabethtown I I Aug; small flocks of 3-7 birds Shallow L 28 Aug, may bode well for the coming winter. **White-winged Crossbill**: singles flying over HAMI Jul; Helldiver Pd 18 Jul; CRF 29 Jul, also bodes well. **Evening Grosbeak**: pair Hurricane Road 12 Jun (JC, DS); max 27 St Regis Falls BBS 18 Jun (TM); female, two dependent y banded Elizabethtown 5 Aug (JP).

Exotics: **Budgerigar**: Hogansburg feeder FRAN after 3 Aug (Denise & Hollis White). **European Goldfinch**: Plattsburgh feeder 7 Jul through Aug (CM).

Addenda: **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: Sciota CLIN 14 May 1994 (Rudy Bobka). **Clay-colored Sparrow**: Pt au Roche SP CLIN 26 Jun-1 Jul 1986 and 18-19 Jun 1988 (E.J. Meyers).

Discovery Farm, RR 1 , Box 230, Elizabethtown, New York 12932

REGION 8 — HUDSON-DELAWARE

JANE GRAVES

June's weather, as reported from the Albany Co. Airport, was warmer and slightly dryer than usual. The average temperature of 68.9°F was 2° higher than normal. The month began cool, but from 13 through 19 Jun mean temperatures were from 7 to 15° above normal, with the highest temperature reading of 95°F on 18 Jun. Sunshine averaged 60%, 5% greater than normal. Precipitation of 3.26 inches was 0.36 inches below normal, most occurring between 12 and 14 Jun. July was a hot, wet month, with the temperature averaging 74°F, 2.2° above normal. Twenty-one days had means above normal. Sunshine averaged 67%, 4% greater than normal. Precipitation totaled 4.25 inches, 1.26 inches above normal. Rain fell on 20 different days, with seven thunderstorms. A destructive storm occurred on 26 Jul brought major wind damage to SARA. By contrast, August was significantly cooler. The temperature averaged 67.1°F, 2.5° below normal. There were no 90° readings, and seven nights when temperatures dipped into the 40's. The average high was over 4° cooler than normal. Precipitation totaled 4.13 inches, 0.66 inches above normal. It was a generally cloudy month, with sunshine averaging 55%, 5% below normal. There were only two days that were completely clear.

Reports indicate a generally good breeding season. Species which

suffer from Raccoon nest predation, such as Mallard and Wild Turkey, fared well because of the significant Raccoon population decline caused by the raccoon rabies epidemic. The mid June heat wave did cause some nesting failures. Robert Yunick reported finding previously banded young Tree Swallow dead in nest boxes. Bald Eagle was well represented, with three nesting pairs present for the third year in a row. A pair in SCHO fledged one young, the COLU pair laid eggs which did not hatch, and the ALBA pair built a nest but laid no eggs. In addition, many eagle sightings, mainly of immature birds, were reported along the Hudson River. Eastern Bluebird nestings were significantly down from last year, probably due to last year's decline in nestling survival because of cool weather. At Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, there were only two nesting pairs, as compared with six pairs last year.

On 31 July, Laurie Freeman spotted approximately twenty American Kestrel eating grasshoppers at the capped Town of Mayfield landfill, FULT. They were using vent pipes as perches, two birds on each pipe. Judging by the amount of droppings on the pipes, the Kestrels had been frequenting the area for some time. Unfortunately, the field was mowed about one week later, and the birds dispersed.

Grassland bird populations at the Saratoga Battlefield were monitored intensively for the first time by Rachel Mazur, a graduate student at SUNY College of Environmental Sciences and Forestry at Syracuse. Her most exciting finding was 14 singing Henslow's Sparrow, with 13 confirmed pairs. No detailed information about nesting success was available at the time of writing.

Robert Yunick's long-term monitoring of bird populations at Jenny Lake, SARA, included the following observations. Ruby-throated Hummingbird was present in good numbers, with 25 individuals banded during the period. It was a record year for Tree Swallow; 365 individuals was banded during June and July. Blue Jay remained scarce; none was banded during the period as compared with 8-15 in previous years. Both Black-capped Chickadee and Red-breasted Nuthatch numbers were down from last year's irruptions. Chipping Sparrow was virtually absent; none was banded after two previous years of low numbers. Dark-eyed Junco was present in low numbers after its apparent disappearance as a breeder in 1993; apparently two broods fledged this season. Purple Finch continued its noticeable decline, "the worst showing of this species in 25 years of banding," and only 52 individuals were banded from June through August. Evening Grosbeak bred for the sixth consecutive year.

Although water levels were high at Vischer Ferry and Tomhannock Reservoir, there were many shorebird reports from other areas during migration, principally the Saratoga Sod Farm, Simmons Island, and Myosotis Lake. A total of 22 species of shorebirds was observed during the period, the most noteworthy being American Golden-Plover, Baird's Sandpiper, and Buff-breasted Sandpiper.

175 species were reported during the period.

Contributors: Ken Able; Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC); Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN); William Brown; Robert Budliger; Paul Connor; Bill Cook; Donald Cooper; Walter Ellison; Laurie Freeman; Jane Graves; Bill Lee; Alan A. Mapes (AAM); Andy Mason (AM); Nancy Martin; Laura Meade; Frank Murphy; J. M. C Peterson; Barb Putnam; Elton Rising; Jim Sotis; Robert Yunick.

Abbreviations: BCWMA - Black Creek Marsh State Wildlife Management Area, ALBA; BCRes - Basic Creek Res, ALBA; FiveR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FtE - Fort Edward, WASH; L7/NL - Lock 7 and Niskayuna Landfill, SCHE; ML - Myosotis Lake, ALBA; NRP - Nott Road Park, Guilderland, ALBA; PISP - Peebles Island State Park, SARA; SaraL - Saratoga Lake, SARA; SBNHP - Saratoga Battlefield National Historic Park, SARA; SSF - Saratoga Sod Farm, SARA; SI - Simmons Island, Cohoes, ALBA; TomRes - Tomhannock Reservoir, RENS; VFNP - Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA.

Summer Reports: **Com. Loon:** bred Jabe Pd WARR, two chicks seen 13 Jul-8 Aug, one chick after 30 Aug (LM, ER); three imm L George 17 Jul (WB, JG); two second-year BCRes 23 Jul (WE, NM); four reports of singles throughout Region. **Pied-billed Grebe:** bred BCRes, three ad, one juv seen 23 Jul (WE), only report. **Double-crested Cormorant:** five reports, max 75 Mohawk R SARA 11 Aug (W. Sabin to BEN). **Least Bittern:** ad VFNP after 6 Aug (WE, NM), three on 25 Aug. **Great Egret:** six reports, first 14 Jul. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** one Mohawk R Halfmoon 27 Aug (WE, NM). **Blue-winged Teal:** four ML 27 Aug (WE, NM) only report. **White-winged Scoter:** one Ft Miller 23 Jun (BP), late. **Bufflehead:** female Clifton P 6 Aug (RB, WE, NM). **Hooded Merganser:** female, six y Goeffroy's Pd COLU 20 Jun (BC); female, two y Duanesburg 8 Jul (DC); female Middle Flow WARR 10 Aug (PC).

Osprey: active nest Beaver Pd WARR unsuccessful (*fide* JMCP); one Jabe Pd WARR 29 Jul (LM, ER); six August reports. **Bald Eagle:** *intro.* N. **Harrier:** eight reports. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** four reports. **Cooper's Hawk:** five reports. **N. Goshawk:** bred Battenville, three y fledged (RR *fide* JS); one Stephentown Center 11 Jul (PC); one VFNP 6 Aug (WE,

NLM, mob). **Red-shouldered Hawk**: frequent Cherry Plain SP area RENS Jun-Jul (PC); one Route 197 at Route 32 SARA 11 Aug (BP); one NRP 23 Aug (WE). **Broad-winged Hawk**: bred Schodack RENS, one or more y fledged (PC); bred Broadalbin, one y fledged (LF); bred Meco FULT, two y fledged (LF); four other reports. **Am. Kestrel**: *intro*. **Peregrine Falcon**: nest Whitehall WASH fledged two y; two nests L George WARR each fledged one y (fide JMCP); two other reports of singles. **Com. Moorhen**: ad, eight y VFNP 31 Jul (WE, NM); one Duanesburg 8 Jul (DC). **Black-bellied Plover**: one SSF 19 Aug (RB, JG). **Am. Golden-Plover**: 19 ad SSF 17 Aug (RB, JG), max 21 on 18 Aug, four remaining 31 Aug (BP). **Semipalmated Plover**: arr five ML 23 Jul (WE); max 27 ML 27 Aug (WE). **Killdeer**: max 220 SSF 18 Aug (WE, NM). **Greater Yellowlegs**: arr three ML 23 Jul (WE). **Lesser Yellowlegs**: arr one ML 23 Jul (WE); max 30 SI 24 Jul (WE). **Solitary Sandpiper**: one Gansevoort 13 Jul (BP); max 23 ML 14 Aug (WE). **Upland Sandpiper**: ten ad, four y FtE 8 Jun (BP). **Ruddy Turnstone**: three ad SI 28 Jul (WE, NM). **Red Knot**: two ad SSF 18 Aug (WE, NM). **Sanderling**: six ad SSF 18 Aug (WE, NM). **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: arr five ML 23 Jul (WE); max 24 ML 18 Aug (WE, NM). **Least Sandpiper**: arr eight ML 23 Jul, max 31 on 14 Aug (WE, NM); eight SSF 18 Aug (RB, JG). **Baird's Sandpiper**: one SSF 19 Aug (RB, JG); four ML 20 Aug (WE, NM). **Pectoral Sandpiper**: arr four SI 24 Jul (WE); max seven ML 7 Aug (WE, NM). **Dunlin**: one SI 10 Aug (BEN). **Stilt Sandpiper**: two ad SI 24 Jul (WE). **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**: one SSF 18-31 Aug (WE, JG). **Short-billed Dowitcher**: seven ad ML 23 Jul; ad SI 24 Jul; two ad SI 28 Jul (WE, NM). **Bonaparte's Gull**: ad SI 3 Aug (WE, NM).

Black-billed Cuckoo: ten reports. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: one BCWMA 14 Jun (DC); one Castleton I SP 24 Jul (R. Guthrie to BEN); one S. Rensselaer 1 Aug (ADBC). **Barred Owl**: four reports. **Com. Nighthawk**: two Troy 5 Jun (BEN); one Albany 12 Jun (BEN); six Westmere 12 Aug (WE); seven Saratoga Sp. 17 Aug (JG); 60 Albany 18 Aug (WE, NM); twenty VFNP 24 Aug (R. Guthrie to BEN); nine Gloversville 25 Aug (BEN); 100 Albany 26 Aug (FM). **Whip-poor-will**: two Greenwich 6 Jun (BEN); three Tower Road SARA 12 Jun (JG); one Hague WARR 16-20 Jun (LM); one Warrensburg 18 Jun (BP). **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: imm NRP 23 Aug (WE), only report.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Lens L WARR 14 Jul (PC); one ML 20 Aug (WE, NM); one NRP 23 Aug (WE); imm NRP 26 Aug (WE). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: four Black Head Mt GREE 5 Jun (WE); four Plateau Mt GREE 8 Jun (WE, NM). **Tree Swallow**: *intro*. **Cliff Swallow**: two ad N Blenheim SCHO 10 Jul (DC) nest with y?; two SSF 13 Aug (WE, NM); one

NRP 17 Aug (WE). **Fish Crow**: four reports. **Com. Raven**: reported throughout Region. **Carolina Wren**: one Schoharie 7 Jun (DC); one NRP 1 Aug (WE); at least two singing throughout period Delmar (RB) only reports. **Winter Wren**: one Black Head Mt GREE 5 Jun (WE); five Plateau Mt GREE 8 Jun (WE, NM); one SSSP 13 Jun (JG); one Plattekill BBS GREE (R. Guthrie to BEN); one Eminence SCHO 20 Jun (DC); one Powell Sanctuary COLU 25 Jun (ADBC). **E. Bluebird**: *intro*. **(Bicknell's) Gray-cheeked Thrush**: four Black Head Mt GREE 5 Jun (WE); eight Plateau Mt GREE 8 Jun (WE, NM). **Swainson's Thrush**: three Black Head Mt GREE 5 Jun (WE); six Plateau Mt GREE 8 Jun (WE, NM); one singing Lens L WARR 14 Jul (PC); one singing Taborton RENS 17 Jul (PC). **Cedar Waxwing**: max 200 BCRes 26 Jul (BEN).

Yellow-throated Vireo: three VFNP 31 Jul (WE, NM). **Tennessee Warbler**: one Ann Lee Pd ALBA 31 Aug (D. Beeler to BEN). **Nashville Warbler**: ad Karner Dunes ALBA 31 Jul (WE). **Prairie Warbler**: five reports Jun-Jul; continuing colony Tower Road SARA. **Cerulean Warbler**: one Bouck Road SCHO 10 Jun (DC); one Spier Falls Road SARA 11 Jun (RB, JG). **Mourning Warbler**: one singing Spier Falls Road SARA 1 Jun (JG); one Gilboa Res SCHO 12 Jun (BEN); one Plattekill BBS GREE 18 Jun (R. Guthrie to BEN); one singing Eminence SCHO 18 Jun (DC); ad female feeding FL Stephentown Center 5 Jul (PC). **Wilson's Warbler**: one Chatham 23 Aug (ADBC); one NRP 23 Aug (WE). **Canada Warbler**: one N. Blenheim SCHO 4 Jun (DC); one Chatham 2 Aug (ADBC); one NRP 23 Aug (WE).

Vesper Sparrow: two FtE 26 Jun (BL); one Westerlo 23 Jul (WE), only reports. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: one Blackhouse Road WASH 11 Jun (RB, JG); three FtE 19 Jun (BP); one Argyle 19 Jun (BP). **Henslow's Sparrow**: *intro*. **Dark-eyed Junco**: *intro*. **Orchard Oriole**: one Loudonville 29 Jul (C. Lamere to BEN). **Purple Finch**: *intro*. **Pine Siskin**: no reports. **Evening Grosbeak**: pair Taborton RENS 3 Jul, two on 26 Jul (PC); one Stephentown Center 6 Aug (PC); bred JL (RY).

Erratum: Peebles I SP, which has previously been assigned to ALBA, is actually in SARA.

Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York 12866-1632

e-mail: jgraves@skidmore.edu

REGION 9 — HUDSON-DELAWARE

JOHN ASKILDSEN

According to the Northeast Regional Climate Center located at Cornell University, the Hudson Valley's summer weather patterns were, in a word, "blah." There were no major storm systems, no floods, no real heat waves or even chilly temperatures. The thermometer had reached 95°F by 19 Jun, which was bit early in the season. However, temperatures barely could get above 90°F during the rest of the season. August's temperatures were below normal. Precipitation was plentiful. By August, the New York City Reservoir System was 6.3% above normal. In fact, it was the fifth wettest August in 100 years. Overall from a meteorological perspective, one really had nothing to complain about this summer in the Hudson Valley.

As always, the summer reports include a fine mixture new or rare breeding species records and rare non-breeding migrants. Summer bird counts, provide excellent data on the status of local breeding birds. The information accumulated over the years can be invaluable. Knowing this, PUTN birders began one this year using the Putnam CBC circle as the count area. It was a smashing success! Not only were three new breeding species found for the county, but one of them was a successful breeding pair of *Peregrine Falcon* in a natural nest site! Eventually, four young birds fledged. Two other summer bird censuses are conducted in the Region. The Greenwich-Stamford Count, which incorporates the eastern half of WEST, and the Silloway Count which covers Bear Mtn and Harriman SP in ORAN and ROCK.

Of the other nesting species reported, certainly the highlight had to have been the successful breeding pair of *American Oystercatcher* found 12 Jun, which fledged young at the Marshlands Conservancy in Rye, WEST. This is a first breeding record for WEST, Region 9 and mainland New York. The same sanctuary also was host to breeding Wild Turkey, making quite a combination in Rye's very suburban setting. The previously mentioned breeding Peregrine Falcon took first place as the "find" of the season in PUTN. Not far behind, the R. T. Waterman Bird Club reports finding two different, successful nests of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker also in PUTN, which may represent a new southerly range extension outside of the Catskills. A fine mix of warbler species, totaling 28 in all, were reported from the Region this summer. The Catskills held many of the more typically northern breeders, while the Hudson Valley contributed good numbers of Cerulean, Kentucky, and Hooded

Warblers. Reduced numbers of Golden-winged Warbler were reported this summer in the historical locations. However, they were also reported several new sites. Northern Harrier was found breeding in the ORAN turf farm area by Scott Angus. Scott watched the adults raise the young until the point of fledging. This species was not confirmed as breeding in the Region during the breeding bird atlas field work of the 1980's.

In addition to finding breeding species, one may also locate migrants and out of season rarities. Of the migrants, 27 species of shorebirds were reported, unquestionably the highlight being the *Marbled Godwit* that made an all too brief appearance. Three *Black Vulture* reports are almost expected these days. A thunderstorm which plowed through the Region on 22 Aug deposited impressive numbers of shorebirds at the Pine Island Turf Nursery in ORAN. Scott Angus counted 24 American Golden-Plover, 14 Black-bellied Plover, 15 Buff-breasted Sandpiper, 20 Pectoral Sandpiper, four Baird's Sandpiper, 27 Semipalmated Plover, ten Least Sandpiper, two Solitary Sandpiper, one Lesser Yellowlegs and over 100 Upland Sandpiper!

Contributors: Scott Angus, John P. Askildsen, Lysle Brinker, Thomas W. Burke, Jack Focht, Valerie Freer, Andrew Guthrie, Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, Edward D. Treacy, Henry Turner, Michael Usai.

Abbreviations: DTR - Doodletown Road, n ROCK; EGR - Edith G. Read Sanctuary, Rye, WEST; MC - Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, WEST; G-SSBC - Greenwich-Stamford Summer Bird Count 12 Jun; PutnSBC - Putnam County Summer Bird Count, latter half of Jun.

Summer Records: **Least Bittern:** three PutnSBC. **Am. Bittern:** two near Hudson R DUTC in Aug, no date. **Little Blue Heron:** one MC 6 Aug. **Cattle Egret:** one Hudson R ORAN 7 Jun (EDT). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** one MC early June. **Glossy Ibis:** one MC for one day mid Jun. **Blue-winged Teal:** MC 19 Jun. **Canvasback:** one MC 12 Jun. **Oldsquaw:** one EGR 12 Jun. **Bufflehead:** two Rye 12 Jun. **Com. Goldeneye:** one Rye 19 Jun. **Hooded Merganser:** one DUTC 9 Jun. **Red-breasted Merganser:** one Rye 12 Jun.

Black Vulture: one SULL 4 Jun (Phyllis Jones); two Silloway Count 12 Jun. **Osprey:** two along Hudson R PutnSBC. **Bald Eagle:** one ad, one imm PutnSBC. **N. Harrier:** *intro*. **N. Goshawk:** 21 individuals, including four nests, reported. **Peregrine Falcon:** *intro* (Steve Golladay). **Wild Turkey:** *intro*. **N. Bobwhite:** one MC 19 Aug. **Clapper Rail:** one MC all season. **Virginia Rail:** one MC all season. **Com. Moorhen:** up to three Dieterich L DUTC all season. **Black-bellied Plover:** 21 MC 18 Aug. **Am. Golden-Plover:** 60 ORAN 27 Aug (EDT); *intro*. **Am. Oystercatcher:** *intro*.

Willet: Rye 12 Jun, early. **Upland Sandpiper:** four ULST 6 Jul likely breeders; *intro.* **Whimbrel:** one MC 28 Jul (TWB). **Marbled Godwit:** two imm MC 19 Aug (LB, TB). **White-rumped Sandpiper:** 15 MC 2 Jun; one at Turf farm, ORAN 27 Aug (EDT). **Baird's Sandpiper:** ad EGR 14-15 Aug (AG, JPA); two imm MC 19-20 Aug (LB, JPA); *intro.* **Pectoral Sandpiper:** *intro.* **Stilt Sandpiper:** one 2-18 Aug MC. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** *intro.* **Wilson's Phalarope:** imm MC 16 Aug (AG, TWB). **Com. Tern:** one Hudson R PUTN.

Black-billed Cuckoo: numbers low. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** numbers low. **Barn Owl:** nested successfully ORAN. **Com. Nighthawk:** pair frequented downtown Ellenville ULST through the nesting season, rare, nesting not confirmed. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** *intro.*

Acadian Flycatcher: well represented at historical locations; several sang SULL into late Jul, where occasional only. **Purple Martin:** colonies persisting but only very locally. **Carolina Wren:** numbers well below previous years. **Winter Wren:** numbers down. **Brown Thrasher:** numbers reported to be low.

White-eyed Vireo: pair DTR. **Nashville Warbler:** territorial pair SULL June. **N. Parula:** singing male PutnSBC. **Magnolia Warbler:** male on territory in good habitat ORAN mid Jun. **Blackburnian Warbler:** scattered reports across n part of Region. **Pine Warbler:** abundant near reservoirs with White Pine. **N. Waterthrush:** scattered reports s to n WEST. **Kentucky Warbler:** max probably four DTR, nesting not confirmed; two n WEST. **Yellow-breasted Chat:** a few reports s WEST only.

Vesper Sparrow: one nest ORAN, none from ULST. **Henslow's Sparrow:** unreported. **Orchard Oriole:** well reported. **Pine Siskin:** two SULL 8 Jun. **Evening Grosbeak:** one n WEST 12 Jun; several family groups reported at feeders SULL, nesting not proven.

P. O. Box 32, Chappaqua, New York, 10514

REGION 10 — MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF AND ALVIN WOLLIN

Summer started early this year. June was the third hottest on record with a third of the days over 90°F and two daily record highs were exceeded. Precipitation was slightly less than normal. July continued the trend with considerably hotter temperatures and slightly less than normal rain. July was the eighth hottest on record. August was only slightly cooler than normal, but rainfall for the month at 6.33 inches almost matched the total of the prior two months. When the rain came down, it was unevenly scattered across the Region. In places, the rains were torrential in the last week of August. More rain fell in NASS in 24 hours during late August than in the official reports from New York City for the entire month. The rains did little to wet down the shore mud flats. Water falling on dry pools and flats quickly drained into the ground.

A number of comments have been made by our correspondents on nesting successes this year and on the larger number of juvenile passerines present. The warm, even climate, without significant storm or cold weather during the height of the nesting season, probably had much to do with this.

The results of pelagic trips are tabulated below. The results of fishing trips are included under the species accounts.

Species	4 Jun	4 Aug	11 Aug
	90 mi S Montauk	70 mi S ShIn	25 mi S Montauk
Cory's Shearwater	15	500	6
Greater Shearwater	72	500	6
Sooty Shearwater	75		
Manx Shearwater		1	
<i>Audubon's Shearwater</i>			4
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	82	50	35
Red Phalarope	1		1?
Pomarine Jaeger		3	
Black Tern			1

An exhausted immature Bald Eagle was found on Long Island on 25 Aug. This bird made the newspapers. It was fed, rehabilitated and released in upstate New York after the necessary agreements among parties involved. Research disclosed that the bird was a recently fledged bird from a release site in Tennessee, where conservationists are reintroducing the Bald Eagle to the area.

The rearrangement of the sand on the beach front at Cedar Beach has severely altered the terrain so that water does not collect. The dry early part of the Summer and subsequent low rain fall turned what had previously been mud flats into sand and vegetation. This markedly reduced the habitat and decreased the number and variety of shorebirds seen. In spite of this, the site continues as the most reliable location for species which prefer dryer situations, starting in early August for Baird's and Buff-breasted Sandpipers and in mid August for Whimbrel. These birds appear not to have been affected by the lack of wet areas and continued into September. They also appeared during the time period in the area in front of Jones Beach West End #2, also mostly dry this Summer. This latter area is subject to much traffic by beach goers and is not as reliable a location as Cedar Beach.

Paul Gillen reported that the Fall shorebird activity on the Cutchogue Sod Fields was very poor this season. Both American Golden-Plover and Buff-breasted Sandpiper were seen this year, but in much reduced numbers. However, 75 American Golden-Plover were reported to the NYRBA from Calverton on 22 Aug.

In a cover story for 24 Jul, the *New York Times*, *Long Island Weekly* reported on the tern colony at Great Gull Island. This "remote" island off Orient Point houses approximately 18,000 adults at last estimate, consisting of 1,500 Roseate Tern pairs and 7,000 Common Tern pairs. Breeding success was very good here also. Since the 1948 acquisition of this barren island by the American Museum of Natural History for \$1.00, habitat has been restored and the terns enticed to return to their former nesting ground. Over the years, volunteers under the direction of Helen Hays have maintained and nurtured this colony. Technical papers by Hays on deformities in the tern colony were in part responsible for the ban on PCBs. The *Times* article, we are glad to report, publicly confirmed her valuable contribution to cleaning up the environment.

Henry Flamm reported a Prothonotary Warbler at Clove Lake Park, Staten I, on 27 Aug. It would be interesting to speculate on the source of the bird. Was it an overlooked breeder or a migrant?

We received an interesting report authored by Lorna Salzman, NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection, entitled "Extirpated and Endangered Flora and Fauna of the Lower Hudson Estuary, July 1994". This report includes areas adjacent to (including New Jersey) but beyond the bounds of our reporting area. There are 60 species of bird on the list, a significant number when compared to recent breeding reports for the Region. *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* which covered the period 1980-1985 recorded 187 probable breeders in all of Region 10, of

which 169 were confirmed. Some birds are included in both lists. Since the estuary within our Region comprise the five boros of New York City and Jamaica Bay, it is obvious that habitat loss and pressures on the remaining park lands can account for most, if not all of the loss of breeders. All birds on the list require habitat consisting of either open fields (sparrows), wetlands, (herons, rails), beaches (terns), or heavily wooded areas (hawks, flycatchers, warblers, etc.) to nest. It can only get worse!

Great rarities for the period are *Brown Pelican*, *Wood Stork*, *Rufous-necked Stint* and *Sooty Tern*. The stint is becoming an annual event. All require NYSARC evaluation.

Contributors: Andy Baldelli, Thomas W.Burke, Henry F. Flamm, John J. Fritz, Paul H. Gillen, Paul Kerlinger, Anthony J. Lauro, Emanuel Levine, Peter Martin, Joan Quinlan, Lorna Salzman, Eric Salzman, Seymour Schiff, Steve Walter, Alvin Wollin.

Abbreviations: CB – Cedar Beach; CP – Central Park; CLP – Clove Lake Park, Staten I; CM – Cow Meadow, Freeport; FI – Fire Island; FP – Forest Park; JBWR – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBCH – Jones Beach; JBWE – Jones Beach West End; JIn – Jones Inlet; LnIs – Line Islands; LI – Long Island; NYRBA – New York Rare Bird Alert; ShIn – Shinnecock Inlet; SI – Staten Island.

Summer reports: **Red-throated Loon:** a few Summer reports. **Com. Loon:** a few reports. **Red-necked Grebe:** a few reports, very rare during this season, probably stragglers from the unprecedented numbers last season. **Cory's Shearwater:** *intro*; 6–8 mi off Democrat Pt 8 Aug (PK), 20+ 20 mi s FI Inlet 28 Aug (PM). **Greater Shearwater:** *intro*; 20 mi S FI Inlet 7 Jul (PM), 20+ 20 mi s FI Inlet 28 Aug (PM). **Sooty Shearwater:** *intro*; two ad *ca.* 30 mi S Montauk 18 Aug (*fide* Jim Ash); two 20 mi s FI Inlet 28 Aug (PM). **Manx Shearwater:** *intro*; three 20 mi s FI Inlet 28 Aug (PM). **Audubon's Shearwater:** *intro*. **Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** *intro*; 20 20 mi s FI Inlet 7 Jul (PM), dozens 6–8 mi off Democrat Pt 8 Aug (PK). **Brown Pelican:** 22 off Tobay 7 Jul (Al Ott), one JIn 7 Jul, 13 FI Inlet 8 Jul, two 13 Jul, one Huntington 16 Jul, two SH In 18 Jul four FI Inlet 20 Jul (NYRBA). **Least Bittern:** JBWR 26 Jun (NYRBA), nesting Wertheim NWR (ES). **Wood Stork:** one flying s Breezy Pt 7 Aug (Mary Hake *fide* NYRBA, no details). **Mute Swan:** 205 JBWR 4 Aug, numbers increase each year (SS). **Eurasian Wigeon:** JBWR 27 Jul (NYRBA). **Com. Eider:** two Sands Pt 2 Jun (NYRBA)

Turkey Vulture: CLP 24 Aug (HF). **Bald Eagle:** *intro*, Babylon mid Aug, JBWR 24 Aug, CP 30 Aug (NYRBA). **Black Rail:** one Oak Beach 11 Jun (NYRBA). **Am. Golden-Plover:** *intro*. **Am. Avocet:** LnIs 7–25 Aug

(AL, mob), JBWR 20–23 Aug (NYRBA). **Upland Sandpiper**: Cutchogue and Calverton early to late Aug (NYRBA). **Whimbrel**: *intro*, one JBCH 20 Jul, dozen CM 24 Jul–13 Aug (mob), E Hampton 28 Jul (NYRBA). **Hudsonian Godwit**: one JBWR 30 Jul, nine LnIs 7 Aug, three 20 Aug, two 25 Aug; two JBWR 13 Aug (NYRBA). **Marbled Godwit**: LnIs 9 Jul, JBWR 14 Aug, LnIs 20 Aug (NYRBA). **W. Sandpiper**: 30 LnIs 9 Jul, 20 LnIs 7 Aug (NYRBA). **Rufous-necked Stint**: JBWR 8 Jul (AB, JF, JQ, mob), JBWR 30 Jul–5 Aug (AB, mob). **Baird's Sandpiper**: *intro*. **Stilt Sandpiper**: one JBWR 2 Jul, 56 on 23 Jul, 28 on 30 Jul, five JBWR 13 Aug (NYRBA). **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**: *intro*. **Ruff**: ad male JBWR 6–10 Jul, another partial molt 10 Jul (Max & Nellie Larsen); molting male Wainscott Pd E Hampton (ES), CM 22 Jul (EL). **Short-billed Dowitcher**: 1000 LnIs 9 Jul (NYRBA). **Long-billed Dowitcher**: two LnIs 7 Aug (NYRBA). **Wilson's Phalarope**: LnIs 9 Jul, JBWR 13 Jul, CM 21–22 Jul, JBWR 23 Jul, JBWR 3 Aug, LnIs 20 Aug (NYRBA). **Red-necked Phalarope**: JBWR 7 Jul (Lenny Chipkin). **Red Phalarope**: *intro*. **Pomarine Jaeger**: *intro*. **Jaeger, species**: JIn 13 Aug (PM). **Com. Black-headed Gull**: JBWR 27 Jun (Paul Buckley). **Gull-billed Tern**: CM 21 Jul (NYRBA). **Caspian Tern**: one Mecox 4 Jun (NYRBA). **Royal Tern**: two displaying at Mecox 5–26 Jun, two ShIn 3 Jul, one Jin 7 Jul, one Peconic 11 Aug (NYRBA). **Roseate Tern**: *intro*. **Com. Tern**: *intro*. **Black Tern**: along south shore from 27 Jul. **Sooty Tern**: imm feeding in the surf at Mecox 23 Aug (LS, ES); Eric also reports along with the details supplied that Jack Passie, a fishing Captain out of Montauk, saw two come to the fishing boat's chum line on 19 Aug.

Chuck-will's-widow: two Oak Beach 11 Jun (NYRBA). **Whip-poor-will**: 12 Connecticut River SP 11 Jun (NYRBA).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Baldwin backyard 28 Aug (SS). **Acadian Flycatcher**: one Captree Summer Count 11 Jul (NYRBA). **Wood Thrush**: one at CLP 28 Aug, very rare in the fall on SI (HF).

Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: Lawrence's type Brookhaven 18 Jul (JF). **Worm-eating Warbler**: pair carrying food Muttontown Preserve mid Jun (Barbara Conolly, mob).

Blue Grosbeak: male in fields off Route 51 sw Riverhead 12 Jun (AL, AB). **Lark Sparrow**: PP 31 Aug (NYRBA). **Grasshopper Sparrow**: numerous e LI locations, none NASS. **Boat-tailed Grackle**: reported from SI (HF) to Shinnicock, feeding young (ES).

603 Mead Terrace, S. Hempstead, New York 11550

CORRIGENDUM

The following citation was inadvertently omitted from the Literature Cited in Evans, B., *et al.*, The Fall Flight of Common Loon over Cayuga Lake. *Kingbird* 44(3):164-169; 1994.

Wells, J. 1991. Inland Migration of Common Loons over the Finger Lakes Region of New York. *Kingbird* 41:17-19.

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